

DUDLEY CHRONICLE



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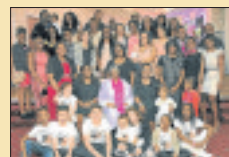
See Page 13



Mum's day

Family's big celebration for their 'Queen Mother'

See Page 16



Council to consider buying up housing

COUNCIL bosses in Dudley are considering buying private homes from developers to plug an urgent gap in housing to families desperate to downsize, due in part to the 'bedroom tax'.

They revealed there was a 'mismatch' in their housing stock which was causing problems when trying to allocate homes. Officials claim the policy has created an 'excessive demand' for smaller properties.

Dudley Council's housing boss, Councillor Steve Waltho, said they were now considering buying empty new properties that housing developers were struggling to sell.

"Maybe there are houses that the council can purchase from developers that have been left over and they have not yet sold," he said.

Figures reveal a total of 2,704 households have been affected by the bedroom tax.

The council says additional support has been provided for tenants in arrears including extra home visits and debt advice.

Between April and September, 166 tenants downsized their properties compared with 74 during the same period last year.

Rent arrears are soaring

THE 'bedroom tax' and other welfare reforms have been blamed as rent arrears in Dudley have soared to their highest level in five years.

The number of Dudley Council tenants falling behind on their rent has increased by 17 per cent in a year, councillors were told.

Members of the authority's Adult, Community and Housing Services Scrutiny Committee heard that 9,601 tenants were in arrears in September compared to 8,153 at the same time last year, adding up to almost £372,000 of debt. The committee was told it was due to the impact of reforms such as the 'bedroom tax' and the introduction of a benefit cap.

■ More in arrears – page 5

FUNDING CRISIS AT BLIND CENTRE

Report by Daniel Wainwright

A CHARITY that helps blind and partially-sighted people across the Black Country is trying to plug a funding black hole due to a drop in donations.

Accounts reveal the Beacon Centre for the Blind spent £233,068 more than it received over the past year. Chief executive Arwyn Jones said the charity was on course to deliver a balanced budget next year but was trying to raise more through donations and legacies.

He revealed the charity had cut nine jobs last year – almost a tenth of its workforce – to reduce costs. It also closed a loss-making talking newspaper and reduced opening hours, closing at 4pm rather than 4.30pm.

The charity helps 2,588 blind and partially sighted people across Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and South Staffordshire.

But it may face further challenges if cash-strapped councils such as Dudley and Wolverhampton, both of whom have announced multi-million pound cuts, reduce their funding.

The charity gets 40 per cent of its income through council grants.

Other forms of fundraising income from donations, gifts, events and activities dropped last year to £198,780 from £245,988 the year before.

Legacies

It meant the charity made £2,180,776 but spent £2,413,844.

Mr Jones said: "In common with almost every charity, there has been a drop in personal donations."

"We are exceptionally grateful to everyone who does donate. We've seen an improvement in donations left to us in legacies. People are remembering us in their wills, in many cases because we have helped them or a relative."

"We have contracts with local authorities who we know are under pressure. They face a rising demand for services but shrinking pots of funding. Several of our contracts are coming up for renewal over the next few months."

The charity will also be seeking to recruit more volunteers but Mr Jones explained that this would be under pressure as other services also seek to reduce costs by using volunteers.

"The more demands there are for them the more difficult it becomes. But we are currently on course to achieve a balanced budget," he said.

The Beacon Centre's talking newspaper was scrapped last year after two decades. It had been used by 350 people who received a weekly tape with local news. A similar service was being provided by the Thomas Pocklington Trust so Beacon Centre bosses said people would not miss out.

Former Prime Minister Tony Blair announced plans for walk-in centres in 1999. Monitor found 50 of the 230 centre in England had closed in the last three years.

May's very special day



Birthday girl – Gwendoline Fisher, known as May, celebrates turning 103, cutting her birthday cake watched by the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch

A WOMAN who has overcome personal tragedy to live to the remarkable age of 103 has celebrated her birthday with relatives, care home staff and civic dignitaries.

Gwendoline 'May' Fisher was only five years old when her mother, two grandparents and brother were killed when a bomb was dropped on her grandmother's house in Tipton from a Zeppelin during the First World War.

In 1932 she married the love of her life, Ernest, at Dudley Registry Office and the pair remained together until his death in 1979. They had three children Don, Pauline and Roy, who in turn had their own children – Gary, Andrew, Peter-John and Simon, who sadly died aged 25. There are five great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. Daughter Pauline said her mother's birthday lunch was a lovely event.

Cannabis discovery as crew fight fire

A CANNABIS factory was discovered after a blaze ripped through an Indian restaurant in Dudley.

Around 25 firefighters were called to the blaze at The Rickshaw Indian Cuisine, in Porters Field, which was reported at 1.30am on November 7.

After spending five hours tackling the flames inside the restaurant, crews discovered around 20 suspected cannabis plants growing in a loft at the building.

Destroyed

The blaze destroyed 90 per cent of the interior of the restaurant, although the building structure still stands.

Ivan Lilley, watch commander at Wolverhampton fire station, said: "The fire exposed holes in the ceiling where we could see something in a room upstairs."

"We then found a hatch to a loft where inside there was a tent with about 20 pots inside."

"It wasn't a big factory, but it was clear the plants were being produced inside."

Police were notified and fire investigators were finding the cause of the fire.

Society move to a new HQ

THE official opening of the new head office of the Dudley Building Society will take place on Thursday, November 21.

Guests including Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, will be attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the office at Harbour Buildings, The Waterfront, Brierley Hill at noon.

The opening of the new head office has created 10 jobs with 55 staff now at the site. Many have moved from the old head office and branch in Stone Street, Dudley, which remains open to customers.

The offices were previously occupied by aerospace engineering group Hampson Industries, before that firm collapsed last year.

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Father hit by lorry as he fled hammer threat



Sartaj Aziz

A 26-YEAR-OLD father-of-two was killed when he ran into the path of a lorry while trying to escape a man armed with a hammer, a court heard.

Garret Fitzpatrick pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Sartaj Aziz, of Prescott Road, Stourbridge. He died when hit by the lorry outside the Formula 1 Hand Car Wash in Thorns Road, Quarry Bank, on August 20.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told the incident was not a racist attack. Fitzpatrick, 27, from Bank Street,

Brierley Hill, admitted the unlawful killing on a basis that was not read out in full to the court.

Hugh O'Brien Quinn, prosecuting, said: "It is accepted that the defendant had known Mr Aziz for over 12 months and that they were neither friends nor enemies."

"The defendant had attended the car wash intending to have a fist fight."

"He had a hammer when he ran from his vehicle to the vehicle in which Mr Aziz was seated."

"He was reportedly ranting and raving 'get out of the car or I will kill you.'"

"This was an attack borne out of something that had happened earlier although there had not been a feud between them."

"The defendant turned up intent upon violence. Mr Aziz saw the hammer, believed he was about to be assaulted with the hammer, and ran in to the road."

Fitzpatrick was remanded in custody for reports until December 18 when he is due to be sentenced after the case has been outlined in full to the court.

Justice system revamp delayed

A PROPOSED shake-up of the court system will be delayed as justice chiefs need to run a second consultation following opposition from magistrates.

Bosses at Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service are trying to find ways to cope with workloads in the face of 'immense budgetary' and resource pressures.

It is proposed to overhaul the Black Country Local Justice Area, affecting magistrates courts across the area. The preferred option had been for all criminal casework at Dudley Magistrates Court to cease as it became a civil, family and tribunal centre instead.

Youth

It was also proposed for the magistrates court in Wolverhampton to do all trials and youth cases in the Black Country, and for Walsall and Sandwell to split the rest of the workload between them. That was one of three options put forward in a six-week consultation.

That plan prompted a 1,200-strong petition in opposition from campaigners led by Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

That consultation has now closed and HMCTS has revealed it will review its proposals and consult again. Chiefs insist the cost of running a second consultation will be 'minimal'.

It is anticipated there will be a delay in implementing any changes, which it was thought could come in as soon as January 1.

A second consultation is expected to take between six and 12 weeks.

Allegation over arrow

A MAN accused of threatening his then girlfriend's father with a bow and arrow has been committed to crown court.

Negih Hussain appeared before Sandwell Magistrates Court last Thursday.

The 45-year-old, of Lawrence Lane, Cradley Heath, is accused of possession of an offensive weapon and making threats to kill.

Hussain will next appear before Wolverhampton Crown Court in February, when he is due to enter a plea.

Boost for adoption as loving parents sought

A SIX-FIGURE cash grant will be used to speed up a borough's adoption system, fund new staff and help attract more adoptive parents.

Dudley Council has been awarded £521,220 to help reduce the wait for adoptive parents.

Village is to benefit from sale of lodge

CASH raised by the sale of a building in Gornal Wood will not be used to fund the re-opening of public toilets in Netherton, following a council U-turn.

Residents and traders in Gornal were left fuming after being told money raised from the sale of Gornal Wood Cemetery Lodge would be used to restore conveniences in Netherton.

Reconsider

Campaigners have long called for the village's own public toilets to be re-opened.

But Dudley Council officials this week said they had reconsidered the plan and the money for re-opening the Netherton toilets would come from existing council coffers.

And the council confirmed that cash from the lodge sale would be used to fund CCTV security cameras in Gornal.

Councillor Stuart Turner said: "The money will be used to benefit Gornal."

He added: "This building is within the village so it is only right it be used to fund a project here."

It comes as the council makes a plea for more people interested in adopting children to come forward.

The council has been given the cash by the Government, which wants to increase the number of adoptive parents that are recruited.

Need

The cash will help to fund three temporary full-time administration assistants.

Cabinet member for human resources, legal and property, Gaye Partridge, said: "To help tackle the immediate need to find homes for children requiring adoption the Government has made available a one year adoption reform grant for 2013/14."

"Additional administrative support to fieldworkers, will increase their capacity enabling them to reduce timescales."

As part of National Adoption Week, which ran last week, the council with Adoption in the Black Country embarked on a new search for more adoptive parents, specifically for brother and sister siblings and children with dual heritage backgrounds.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services and life-long learning for Dudley Council said: "We really need people who can offer a child or children a loving home and supportive family for life."

To find out more call adoption in the Black Country on 0800 073 0597 or visit the www.adoptionblackcountry.co.uk website.

Special bus deal for soldiers



Private Dave McKee, 28, who will get extra time off from driving buses as a reservist EX-SOLDIERS and service personnel will be given free bus travel to help them find a job outside the Army.

Bus company National Express West Midlands has also said it will let families travel for free to visit wounded soldiers at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

The scheme comes as the company pledged it would guarantee anyone leaving the armed forces an interview for a job, as well as 10 days extra holiday for any staff who are Army reservists.

A 'Welcome Home' ticket will give ex-service personnel a month's free bus travel

to find work outside the forces, plus a family version for those relocating from postings.

Dudley-based bus driver Dave McKee, 28, a reservist, returned this week from a tour of Afghanistan. Private McKee, from Slough, Halesowen, had been stationed at Camp Bastion with 159 Supply Regiment, the Royal Logistic Corps.

He said: "Free travel will really help soldiers when they are looking for work. The extra time off is also really great."

"We already organise our training around our days off but this will be a massive help."

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Man gets three year match ban

A MAN who tried to run on to the pitch at Molineux during a Wolves game, and was found in possession of cocaine, have been banned from attending football matches for three years.

Joshua Harvey, of Rowley Regis, jumped the barrier at the front of a stand when Leigh Griffiths put Wolves ahead in the Midlands derby against Coventry City at Molineux on October 19.

Wolverhampton Magistrates Court heard officers searched Harvey, of Powke Lane, Rowley Regis, after his arrest and discovered a small bag of cocaine.

Taste

Mrs Maggie Meakin, prosecuting, said: "The defendant claims he found a bag of white powder on the floor of a toilet and decided to stick his finger in and taste it. When he realised it was cocaine he made the decision to keep it."

Harvey, 28, claimed he was not a football fan and had only ever been to one game before in his life.

Harvey told officers he had got 'carried away' when Wolves scored. He said because he was not used to attending matches he was not aware it was illegal to run on to the area next to the pitch.

District Judge Mr Graham Wilkinson said: "Regarding the drug offence I cannot believe a man of your intelligence would be stupid enough to pick up a bag off the floor of a toilet and try its contents."

"I also refuse to accept the fact you did not know it was illegal to run on to the area near the pitch."

Harvey pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled drug and unlawfully going on to an area adjacent to the playing area.

He was banned from attending all regulated football matches for three years and ordered to pay a £300 fine, £85 court costs and a £20 statutory surcharge.

Space talk

AN ASTRONOMER will be leading a guided tour of the universe tonight (Thursday) in Wordsley.

Andrew Lound is Wordsley History Society's guest speaker with his presentation, entitled Beginning of Time, which uses images taken by the Hubble Space telescope.

The talk at 7.30pm at Wordsley Green Community Centre, Wordsley Green, is free to members, £2 for visitors.

Health team had to use pen and paper as computer crashed

COMPUTERS at the NHS non-emergency helpline 111 broke down for a whole weekend, forcing call handlers to take sensitive notes with pen and paper.

Staff have claimed the notes were disposed of in the bin, prompting fears that sensitive information may not have been handled properly during last month's incident.

However, NHS Direct bosses said they had investigated the concerns and records were disposed of properly.

It comes as people are being urged to dial 111 for advice and guidance to avoid the need

to go to accident and emergency, with hospitals increasingly under pressure. But the service, which is meant to bring out-of-hours GP services together with other non-emergency care, has been beset by problems. Patients have reported serious concerns and delays.

A whistleblower at NHS Direct at Waterfront Business Park in Dudley, who asked not to be named, revealed the computer system crashed twice over the weekend of October 12 and 13.

Anna Turner, for NHS Direct, said: "NHS

Direct's NHS 111 services experienced a system outage due to an issue outside of its control. Our priority in such circumstances is to ensure that patients remain safe and are able to access health services.

Competent

"As a result, our call centre staff were asked to use our agreed contingency process, which includes the use of paper copies."

"The information is later transposed into the electronic system."

"Full and comprehensive clinical assess-

ments of patients symptoms continued to be undertaken.

"We ensure that all staff working on our services are trained on induction and remain familiar and competent with working our contingency process, though some of our staff may have required some additional support to guide them."

She added: "The question about the disposal of records has been investigated internally and we are able to confirm that all records were disposed of in accordance with data protection procedures."

Care home fined after woman froze to death

Charity builds a playground for Shannon



Dream come true - Shannon Mason with, from left, Tom Jones, Jenny Adey, Steve Grove, Paul Banner, mother and father Kerrie Hale and Lee Mason with their other children Shannon, Ryan-Lee and Lauren

A GIRL'S wish has come true after charity volunteers gave up their time to complete a garden makeover that would make Alan Titchmarsh proud.

Their work to put a smile on Shannon Mason's face has inspired her parents to join the charity to help make others' dreams a reality.

Shannon, aged 11, is the only youngster in the country to have a rare condition called fumarate deficiency. It leaves her with some learning difficul-

ties, difficulty talking and suffering from seizures. But the youngster she wanted to play with her siblings Ryan-Lee, eight, and seven-year-old Lauren.

Parents Kellie Hale and Lee Mason, who are both full-time carers, sought help to transform the garden at their home in Pine Close, Kingswinford.

They struck gold when a friend put them in touch with Tipton-based charity Love2Give - founded by Steve Grove and Pete Jackson, which takes

projects to help those in need. Around 20 volunteers embarked on a four-day transformation of the back garden.

A trampoline has been installed at ground level allowing Shannon, who attends Pens Meadow School, to simply walk on. They have also put up a shelter. Kellie said: "They have done so well it is unbelievable."

When the garden was unveiled ex-Aston Villa player Gary Shaw presented Lee, aged 30, with a football shirt.

A CARE home where an elderly dementia sufferer was found frozen to death in the grounds has been ordered to pay more than £250,000.

Hilda Fairweather, aged 91, died from hypothermia after

walking out of the Abele View care home. She had not been reported as missing from the site until almost 12 hours after she walked out of an insecure fire door in January 2009.

The care home has now been fined £133,000 and told to pay costs of £122,412 because of the catalogue of blunders, which meant vascular dementia sufferer Mrs Fairweather had been 'completely overlooked'.

Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court heard last week that the home, in Iwerley near Stourbridge, had two staff looking after 29 residents on the night she died.

Risks

Although the fire door was found ajar shortly after Mrs Fairweather disappeared, the court heard a head count was not done. The company that owns the home, Abele View Ltd, pleaded guilty to an earlier hearing to failing to ensure the safety of its residents and an insufficient risk assessment.

Mrs Fairweather, originally from Kidderminster, was last seen by staff at 7.30pm on January 29, 2009, and was found dead at 7.45am the following day.

Prosecutor Mr Bernard Thorogood said: "In the intervening time she should have been put to bed."

Mr Thorogood outlined 18 instances of 'accepted criminality' on behalf of Abele View. As well as accepting its failures caused Mrs Fairweather's death, Abele View also acknowledges it had



Hilda Fairweather

inadequate staffing levels, and that risks were created by poor supervision and management.

Previous incidents in which residents were allowed to wander off, including a barefoot elderly man who plunged into a ditch, represented a series of wake-up calls for the home, the court was told.

Mr Thorogood added: "The sad and deeply unattractive facts are that she had frozen to death outside the home on a freezing night in January when she should not have been able to get out."

Since the death, Mr Walker said alarmed external doors and other measures had been brought in at Abele View.

Hilda Fairweather's son Roger, of Bishops Castle, Shropshire, said: "This case sends out a strong message that care homes need to make sure their services and systems are fully up to scratch to help prevent a tragedy like this happening again."

NEWS in brief

Voice of lottery is to host quiz

THE National Lottery's 'Voice of the Balls' and newscaster Alan Dedicoat will be hosting a charity quiz in Kinver for Children in Need.

He will be quizmaster on Friday, November 22, at the Edward Marsh Centre, in High Street, from 8pm.

Over the years more than £10,000 has been raised from the quiz night which is organised by the Rotary Club of Kinver.

A small number of tables are still available at £25 for a team of four with the price to include a sandwich supper.

For further details call Rotarian Me Deathridge on 07801 554669.

Beacon Centre Christmas fair

A LEADING West Midlands charity has declared the festive shopping season officially open as it hosts a Christmas Fair in aid of people living with sight loss.

The event at the Beacon Centre for the Blind in Sedgley on Thursday, November 21, starts at 6pm. It will bring together more than 40 stalls.

Jenni Fryer, fundraising manager for the Beacon Centre, said: "The Christmas Fair is one of our most successful annual events, and always raises a significant sum for the charity."

Admission is £1 with children under 14 free.

£230k scheme at road crossings

A £230,000 plan to upgrade five pedestrian crossings in Dudley has been unveiled.

Dudley Council wants to upgrade pelican crossings in Sedgley to 'puffin' crossings, which can detect when people are waiting.

Two will be installed in High Street, one near Townsend Avenue and one near Bull Ring.

Others to be upgraded are in Dudley Street, Dudley Road, near Arcal Street; and High Holborn.

Residential bid for village pub

ANOTHER Black Country pub will be converted for residential use under new plans. The Albion Inn, in Albion Street, Kingswinford, is to be turned into one new home under the proposal.

Dudley Council will make a decision on the application next year.

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NEWS

THE BEST
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RHODES

DAVID Suchet reveals that he perfected Hercule Poirot's mincing walk by clenching a coin between his buttocks. In future, Mr Suchet may have some difficulty persuading shopkeepers to accept his small change. You wouldn't want a warm one, would you?

□□□□□□

"IF ANYONE has been offered sheep in unusual circumstances or for very low prices, please contact the police." Appeal by Pc Adam Taylor after 160 sheep were rustled – near the Dorset village of Wool.

□□□□□□

WHAT do you call a group of thespians? On Loose Ends (Radio 4) Richard E Grant gave us the collective noun, "a moan of actors."

□□□□□□

THREE senior law peers say that Lord Falconer's bill to relax the ban on assisted suicide would be a "blank cheque" for euthanasia. But no matter how such a law is framed, how long before the right to die would become a duty to die – and then an obligation to die?

□□□□□□

USEFUL statistics for our time. There are 400,000 planning permissions in England and Wales granted for houses which have still not been built. There is no housing shortage, just a building shortage.

□□□□□□

THE fresh-faced Gareth Malone popped up on The Choir (BBC2) with a ginger beard. One TV critic demanded: "How come it was that reddish shade when the hair on his head is dark brown?" Simple. It's all in the genes. Some of us (and I write personally) are born into gingerish families, surrounded by carrot-topped siblings, but displaying not a single reddish hair of our own. We are the hidden gingers. One day, usually in our teens, we decide to grow a beard and discover the ginger line. It runs approximately at mid-ear level. Everything on the face above this line is brown, everything below is red. You look so daft you immediately shave it off. The next time you try to grow some stubble, probably at mid-life crisis time, your beard turns out depressingly grey, so you buy a Harley Davidson or a nice pair of leather trousers instead, while convincing yourself that your bizarre colouring is a sign of exciting forbears. It's a Viking thing, innit? Probably not.

□□□□□□

IF YOU can ignore the silly voice, the sillier clothes and the childlike obscurities, Russell Brand occasionally makes a good point. His frustration at the huge gulf between Parliament and the people goes to the heart of a nation losing all appetite for politics and politicians. There is, as Anne Perkins put it in the Guardian this week: "A great hunger for change and a dangerous sense of powerlessness." I wonder how much this discontent is connected to the sheer size of the Establishment these days. The poor voter is supporting a vast assemblage of parish, district, city and county councillors, members of assemblies in Wales, Ulster and Scotland and members of the European Parliament, not to mention 650 MPs at Westminster and more than 800 members of the House of Lords. By way of comparison the United States, with a population five times that of the UK, manages with just 100 senators and 435 members of the House of Representatives. Our Parliament is far too big but it is a magnificently self-serving organisation, and turkeys do not vote for chestnut stuffing. Even if we magically got rid of 200 MPs they'd probably end up in the Lords with a nice little golden handshake and you and me still paying their wages. Powerlessness doesn't begin to describe it.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Bank charges pledge after wages glitch

DUDLEY Council paid out £29,000 in advanced payments to staff after thousands failed to receive their wages on time due to a computer glitch.

Around 6,500 school and teaching staff across Dudley were affected by the technical fault, forcing them to wait four days to get their money.

The council offered financial assistance to those most in need of help and 90 staff received advanced payments, totalling £29,000.

Bosses say they will also reim-

burse workers for any bank charges they incurred as a result of not being paid.

It's believed the problem was caused by a technical fault with the BACS payment system which meant staff did not receive their wages on Thursday.

Apologised

The council was able to re-run the system on the following Monday, when all staff were paid.

Officials have apologised for the

delay and say they are now working to prevent the same problem from happening again.

They had offered advanced payments to those in need.

Councillor Pete Lowe, deputy leader of the council, said: "All staff have now been paid."

"We apologise to staff for the unforeseen system error and we are working to try to ensure that this does not happen again."

"I would like to thank staff for their patience in dealing with this

matter and we will of course be reimbursing them for bank charges they incurred as a result of not being paid."

Workers said the delay had been especially hard because October had stretched over almost five working weeks. School staff are paid on the last Thursday of each month.

Confused staff took to Twitter to find out what was happening and the council set up a helpline for workers to get information and financial assistance.

Pioneering surgery to help choking patients

A PIONEERING consultant in the Black Country who has launched a treatment to cure a rare illness has transformed the life of 75-year-old Roy Bradley.

by Louise Jew

Before having the procedure at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, Mr Bradley suffered with embarrassing choking and coughing fits when he ate – but now he says he has a 'new lease of life'.

Six patients have so far benefited from the treatment – which relieves a condition that makes it hard to swallow – at the hospital.

Now it is taking patients from around the country.

Consultant gastroenterologist Dr Saud Ishaq, said: "We are very excited because we are the only centre in the country to offer this procedure, which is called flexible endoscopic therapy for Zenker's diverticulum."

Procedure

The procedure, which lasts for 20 to 30 minutes under a short-acting sedative, provides an answer for patients who would not usually be well enough for surgery under a full-blown general anaesthetic.

And Dr Ishaq praised his support team of three endoscopy nurses, describing them as 'the unsung heroes'.

Mr Bradley, who lives with his wife Marlene in Park Road, Lower Gornal, Dudley, was only the fifth patient at Russells Hall Hospital to undergo the treatment.

The procedure removes a pouch that can develop in the gullet, particularly in older men, trapping food.

Great grandfather Mr Bradley, a retired painter and decorator and engineer, said: "I was having a heck of a job swallowing food and it

caused me a lot of problems and embarrassment.

"I've got coronary heart disease, which meant there would be danger if I had anaesthetic for surgery.

"But suddenly I had a call out of the blue from Dr Ishaq, who advised me they could do the operation in a new way and would I be interested.

"That was two years ago and, although I still sometimes struggle with different types of food, I feel a lot better.

"Now I don't have any embarrassing moments and I'm enjoying what seems like a new lease of life."

The procedure involves using an argon beam to melt the wall of a pouch, vaporising surrounding tissue so that food can go straight down the gullet.

Dr Ishaq, who has worked closely with experts in the procedure in Milan, Amsterdam, Shanghai and Brussels, said: "Zenker's diverticulum is a rare condition affecting one in 100,000 people but it is very debilitating for those who have it, making them malnourished and prone to chest infections.

"This procedure is an answer for those denied surgery because of ill health.

"It offers a choice to have a low invasive technique which is safer for them. However, particularly severe cases still have to be handled by a surgeon and we work closely with our colleagues in Ear, Nose and Throat."



Patient Roy Bradley, aged 75, from Lower Gornal, with GI Unit sister Pat Harding and consultant gastroenterologist Dr Saud Ishaq, at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley

Cricket pavilion is being restored

WORK to restore a £230,000 cricket pavilion gutted by fire has started with officials planning to officially open the restored building early next year.

Lye Cricket Club was left picking up the pieces following the arson attack in August. But while the interior of the building was destroyed, the structure was found to be sound so restoration could begin.

Bosses said work had now started with the inside of the pavilion stripped and repairs on the roof. Electricians have gone on to the site to install wiring in preparation for plastering work to begin this week.

The project is due to take around six weeks to complete.

Bosses said they were not planning to officially reopen the pavilion until the start of the next cricket season, during the first week of April next year. But anyone who wanted to hire out the venue before that date would be able to do so.

Extra security is also due to be installed at the site, in Stourbridge Road.

The pavilion was only rebuilt in 2010 following an earlier arson attack at the site.

Psychics in fundraiser

MAYOR of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch will be attending a psychic fair on November 24 at The Saracen's Head in Dudley, being held from 6pm in aid of the Mayor's charities, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and White House Cancer Support.

Tickets are priced at £15 and include hot food, available from Laura Elisabeth Crafts on Stone Street or by calling 07412 531924.

Tunnel talk at a beauty spot

VISITORS to a nature reserve can step back in time thanks for a history talk taking place this weekend.

Bumble Hole Conservation Group is hosting the event at Windmill End, Netherton, on Saturday when there will be a talk and film show by Rob Broadbent about the history of the Netherton Tunnel. It starts at 2.30pm. To book a place call 01384 814100.

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High score achieved by health authority

HOSPITAL trusts serving Dudley and the Wyre Forest area ranked highly among patients attending their accident and emergency departments.

Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which manages Russells Halls Hospital, and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust scored well among the region's best.

The survey, called the Friends and Family Test, was compiled by NHS England. Officials asked respondents whether they would recommend the accident and emergency unit to friends and family.

Dudley Group was given a score of 59 with the maximum attainable being 100.

Dudley Council's health scrutiny committee, Councillor Susan Ridney, today said: "I think that it is very good news to hear that patients are satisfied with their treatment at the A&E department and it is good to know."

Dudley Group was ranked highly among other NHS trusts across the region.

Dudley Group chief executive Paula Clarke said: "We are thrilled that our patients rate us higher than the national average, giving us a score of 59 for our accident and emergency services, and that this places us second highest in the Black Country."

"We will continue to use this data along with our real time comments and surveys to help improve our services."

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital NHS Trust scored 51.

Recycling booming

SETTING up one of the UK's largest secure destruction facilities has helped a Coseley recycling specialist achieve a record year and create 10 jobs in the process.

Recycled UK, which employs 28 at its Cannon Business Park site, has added more than £1 million of sales in 2013. It is now processing and securely destroying over 30 tonnes of CDs, DVDs and video games per week for organisations from the entertainment sector. Bosses believe spending £150,000 on the specialist bonded warehouse, 12 picking stations and baling machines has given it the advantage over rivals.

Marathon runner Carl is an inspiration



Lisa Davies with brother Carl

A FATHER-OF-TWO who is battling cancer has been inspired by the support of his family to don running shoes to complete a triple fundraising challenge.

Hospital consultant Carl Humphries is facing the advanced stages of prostate cancer but vowed to continue his fight – by taking part in three half marathons in five weeks. He crossed the finish line at the Great Birmingham Run in around two hours and 38 minutes with his sister Lisa Davies by his side to the cheers of family and friends.

Carl, 50, worked as a consultant anaesthetist at Blackpool Victoria Hospital but hails from the Black Country where his sister Lisa still lives.

He had already taken part in the Great North Run on September 15 with 19-year-old son Ali and supported by son Rory, 16. On October 6 he took part in the Great Scottish Run in Glasgow with friend and former best man Gordon before being joined by Lisa on the final leg.

Lisa, an advanced nurse practitioner at Ettingshall Medical Centre, said she was nervous about taking on the half marathon but was inspired by her brother's courage. "It was a fantastic day and it was a great feeling to have everyone come down on the day and support us," said Lisa, aged 44, Winnall Close, Coseley.

"I had never done much running before but

Carl was great and even though he could have run it quicker we decided to run together cross the finish line side-by-side.

Lisa had never done any running before joining Dudley Ladies Running Club after being inspired by Carl when he ran the London Marathon the previous year. The mother-of-one was supported by her husband Miles and six-year-old daughter Harriet. Both will travel to support Lisa and Carl as they hope to take part in the London Marathon together next April.

To make a donation to Carl's cause visit uk.virgin.moneygiving.com/carlhumphries or uk.virgin.moneygiving.com/LisaDavies7

Nearly 1,500 more are in arrears after bedroom tax

MORE than £360,000 has been clocked up in rent arrears by residents affected by the controversial 'bedroom tax' in Dudley borough, council chiefs have revealed.

The total number of tenants falling behind on their rent has increased by 17 per cent in a year. Latest figures show there were 9,601 tenants in arrears in the borough in September, compared with 8,153 in the same month last year.

by Heather Large

It is at its highest level for five years, which council bosses say is due to the impact of welfare reforms such as the so-called bedroom tax.

Under the bedroom tax, anyone in council or social rented housing faces a 14 per cent or 25 per cent cut in their housing benefit if they have one or more spare bedrooms – meaning families potentially paying hundreds of pounds extra a year in rent unless they move to a smaller home.

In September it was revealed £330,000 was owed by residents in Sandwell affected by the bedroom tax, while in Wolverhampton the bill stood at £55,000.

Of those in arrears in Dudley, 1,869 had been affected by the bedroom tax, resulting in £361,051 being owed.

But the council said 666 of these tenants had already been in arrears before the welfare reforms were introduced in April.

Meanwhile, 41 tenants were in arrears after having their housing benefit capped, resulting in £10,833 being owed.

Director of adult, community and housing services, Andrea Pope-Smith, said in a report: "The income teams have seen a steady increase in the level of rent arrears outstanding."

"Their current level is the highest it has been since

2008/09. This is due to the impact of welfare reforms but also due to the increasing number of accounts falling into arrears."

She added: "The total arrears figure at September 30 for accounts subject to the benefit cap and the removal of the spare room subsidy was £371,884."

Downsized

"This amount includes accounts where there were arrears present before the welfare reform changes were implemented."

A total of 2,704 households have been affected by the bedroom tax. The council says additional support has been provided for tenants including extra home visits and debt advice.

Between April and September, 166 tenants downsized their properties compared with 74 during the same period last year.

There are currently 4,095 people on the waiting list. Of these, 2,091 are hoping for a one-bedroom property and 1,420 are waiting for a two-bedroom property.

In Wolverhampton there are 2,298 city tenancies affected by the bedroom tax.

Over 95 per cent of the households affected have made at least one payment.

Council bosses say benefits claimants in the city are losing out on a combined £24.9 million each year since the introduction of recent controversial welfare reforms.

Get fit for free in the park



Friends of Buffery Park chairman Steve Briscoe and secretary Lynn Horton testing out the new outdoor fitness equipment that has been installed at the Dudley park

CAMPAIGNERS have welcomed the opening of a new outdoor gym in Dudley which they say will push people to improve their fitness.

Around 12 pieces of equipment have been installed in Buffery Park.

A grant of £20,000 was secured from the Ibstock Cory Environment Trust with the campaigners raising £10,000 themselves.

Friends group secretary Lynn Norton said everyone was delighted.

"This park is a little oasis and we want it to be somewhere that everybody can use," she said.

Other improvements have included a new tennis court and £10,000 revamp of the former Sons of Rest building.

NEWS

in brief

Sign up for prize draw and alerts

THERE is time for tenants and residents to enter a free prize draw to win £100 worth of shopping vouchers in time for Christmas.

Anyone signing up for Dudley Council's free housing alert service by 4pm on November 30 will be entered.

Once registered for this free service, the council will automatically send information about upcoming local events. Sign up at www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts or telephone 01384 815168.

New coach ticket initiative backed

A BLACK Country MP has voiced his support for the launch of a partnership between National Express and The Post Office.

Coach tickets will be on sale at more than 11,000 Post Office branches nationwide, including branches in Dudley, Warley, Wolverhampton and Kidderminster.

Warley MP John Spellar welcomed the partnership meaning National Express and Eurolines coach tickets can now be purchased at Post Office branches.

Boy is rescued from playhouse

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy had to be rescued by firefighters after getting his arm stuck in part of a wooden playhouse.

A crew were called to St James's Primary School in Wollaston to help the youngster at around 11am last Wednesday.

Firefighters from Stourbridge used a saw to cut away a section of the playhouse to free his arm. He was checked over by ambulance staff. Firefighter Chris Glover said: "He was very calm and very brave throughout."

Ball games on offer at centre

YOUNG people can play dodgeball and handball at new sessions which have started up at Portway Lifestyle Centre, Oldbury.

Sessions cost £1 per person. Call Sandwell Leisure Trust on 0121 506 4980.

Wrens Nest walk

THERE will be a walk around the Wrens Nest Nature Reserve on Wednesday, November 20, including a fossil hunt.

Places should be booked in advance on 01384 812785.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

APPEARING this week on the late-night television debating programme *The Agenda*, former Energy Secretary Chris Huhne talked about the different ways that political careers draw to a close.

"I don't think that was a very dignified way to leave politics," he said, referring to Ann Widdecombe's occasionally less-than-fleet-footed appearances on *Strictly Come Dancing*. And who could argue with that.

Appearing on a rather silly television programme and competing with a bunch of D-list attention seekers to garner the public vote is no way for any politician to carry on when they leave office. She might as well have stayed where she was.

Fortunately, there are still one or two former politicians who know how to leave office in a manner befitting the dignity of Parliament. Such as getting caught with your pants down after delivering pompous lectures about the importance of family life, to go through a very public divorce, and then finish the full shebang in the slammer after pleading guilty to perjury. Take a bow, Chris Huhne. You are a credit to your profession.

□□□□□

INCIDENTALLY, in the same appearance Mr Huhne argued that some of the greatest leaders of modern times were those who went straight into politics, without having a career beforehand.

"Take Churchill, he had done nothing outside politics, apart from a bit of gadding about in the Boer War."

I think Mr Huhne is being a bit harsh. Churchill is reported to have come under fire 50 times during his time in the armed forces. During a hasty retreat in India, he witnessed one of his comrades being hacked to death by a Pashtun tribesman, before leading his men to safety.

Then, while 'gadding about' in the Boer War, he escaped a PoW camp and travelled 300 miles through hostile territory.

Now, I realise that being shot at on your 21st birthday or fighting off prison guards in Pretoria might seem like a bit of a soft option compared to discussing wind farms with Vince Cable or sitting in on a EU debate on subsidiarity, but not everyone is cut out for the rough-and-tumble of the Westminster jungle.

Still it's good to know that in the week when politicians of all colours are queuing up to be seen paying tribute to Our Boys that this distinguished elder statesman has lost none of his respect for military service.

□□□□□

NEWSPAPER headline last week: "Mark Bosnich bites tongue after Sir Alex Ferguson autobiography labels Aussie 'a terrible professional'."

Perhaps it's just as well Sir Alex wasn't having a pop at Luis Suarez.



Gary Price, left, from the Well food bank at a collection at an Asda store



Wendy Fryatt shows Bishop David some of the food bank's stock

Crisis-hit families need food banks

More people are turning to the service just to survive. **MARK ANDREWS** spoke to the volunteers who run this vital lifeline

THE shelves are stacked high with tins and food packets. Pallets are filled with jars of jam, marmalade and tinned fruit.

But this warehouse is not at the back of a supermarket, and its customers will not be asked to pay for their food.

The Well, on a business park on the outskirts of Wolverhampton, is one of a growing number of food banks which have sprung up in the West Midlands during the last 10 years.

Founder member Gary Price, who runs the service with his wife Caroline, believes continued economic pressures will only mean more and more people will be turning to their services in years to come.

Affluent

"During the first year, we fed 67 people," says Gary, who set up the service in 2006. "This year it will be around 11,000." It is not just people from the usual deprived neighbourhoods, either.

"That was the case to begin with, but these days we find that more and more we're delivering to the more affluent areas, places like Tettenhall Wood, Codsall and Wombourne.

"It can happen to anybody. You have two people who lose their jobs at the same time," says the 48-year-old.

"You might have a wife who is bringing up the children, and then the husband leaves her and she hasn't got anything to live on. Most people have enough money to last them two weeks before they get themselves into problems."

Gary and Caroline became involved with The Well after a visiting speaker came to King's Church, Wolverhampton, and told them about a similar service



Gary Price, left, from The Well food bank at a collection at an Asda store. On the right is his wife Caroline who helps run the service

running in Birmingham. We believed there was a need in society, and the church could help fill that."

It is a similar story over at the Black Country Food Bank, Dudley formed in 2006 by Wendy Fryatt.

In seven years, it has grown from being on a table in her kitchen into a network of 15 distribution centres covering the whole of the borough of Dudley, much of Sandwell and Walsall, and also some areas of Wolverhampton. As well as distributing food, the Black Country Food Bank also provides clothing to people in need.

"Last year we fed 12,000 people. By August this year, we had already fed 14,000," she says.

"I was coming out of church one day and the idea just came to me," she said. "It began with just me and one other

fighting for unfair dismissal he needed feeding, and he had nothing left to live off."

"People think it's those on benefits, but usually it's when the benefits aren't there that there are real problems."

Not everybody receives help. Both The Well and Black Country Food Bank work on a referral basis, where aid is only given to people who have been assessed by outside agencies, and vouchers issued saying they are in genuine need.

The Well, which is unlike most food banks in that it's a single, independent organisation, is also unusual because it provides a delivery service.

Gary's team of around 60 volunteers distribute food parcels of basic essentials for each household, typically containing food worth between £30 and £35. There are also limits on the number of parcels any household can receive in a specific period.

Various

"We are there to help people in the event of a crisis, what we do not want is people becoming dependent on us, without anything being done to tackle the underlying problems," he says.

Both charities work with various agencies, including Citizens' Advice, churches and social services.

Wendy recalls on one occasion being approached by a midwife who was concerned about a young couple whose baby she had just delivered.

"They were 'sofa surfing', sleeping on somebody's sofa because they didn't have a permanent address," she says.

"The baby was just two weeks old, and was sleeping in a car seat. We did a collection for baby stuff, provided a crib, and made a contribution towards the household where they were staying."

Wendy is under no illusions that there will always be people around who try to exploit the goodwill of the volunteers and donors to food banks, but believes that by and large the agencies do a good job in separating those in genuine need from those who are simply on the take.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A BITTER war of words broke out between Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough and Wolves chairman Derek Dougan, with Clough calling for Dougan to be removed from his post. The controversial Forest boss spoke out after his side beat Wolves 5-0. It was reported that the two centre-forwards had not seen eye-to-eye for many years, and that a few weeks earlier Dougan had criticised Clough for his attitude towards televised football.

A MULTI-million pound blitz on 27 square miles of land beside a railway route labelled the ugliest in Britain was unveiled by West Midlands County Council. The authority had earmarked £20 million alone for the first year of the Greenline project, to spruce up the view of the West Coast Main Line between Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

1993...

TEN people were killed when a tourist coach plunged down a motorway embankment, with several more badly hurt. The scene of the M2 in Kent where the overturned 52-seat coach came to rest was described as one of blood and carnage.

WOLVES legend Billy Wright and club chairman Sir Jack Hayward were denied the freedom of borough by a council political wrangle. The ruling Tory-Liberal Democrat coalition had put forward Wright, and Sir Jack, as being suitable but the Labour group exercised its veto, saying former council leader John Bird, instrumental in saving the club from liquidation, should be honoured as well.

WEST Midlands aristocrat Hon. Tessa Smart said she had would be sticking to her £400 Skoda after her latest in a long line of high-performance cars was stolen.

2003...

FORMER Slade star Jimmy Lea backed MPs who wanted to stop his famous hit Merry Xmas Everybody from being played in shops before Christmas. The Brewdoo-based bass player backed calls from MPs Stephen Pound and Colin Breed for retailers to stop playing Christmas music before the festive season.

BLACK Country Pop Idol hopeful Mark Rhodes had provided a huge boost to the region's reputation, despite ribbing over his accent, said an academic. Wolverhampton University's principal lecturer in English, Ursula Clark heaped praise on the Darlaston-based singer for sticking to his Black Country tones.

GERMAINE Greer spoke of her sadness at the disappearance of the industrial landscape when she addressed an audience at Stourbridge Town Hall.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

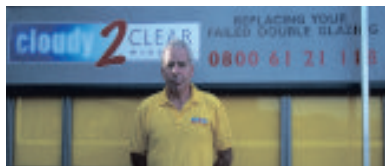
We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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LETTERS

Sympathy over threat to son's home

RE: ARTICLE in Dudley Chronicle, October 2, on Mr Colin Davies. I know exactly what Mr Davies is going through because I went through exactly the same and it went on for three long and very stressful years.

My aunt died in November 2003 and I wanted to succeed the tenancy of the house. My family had lived in the property since it was built in 1951 and to me it was not just a house, it was a home, my past, my present and my future. I had numerous letters and threats off the council, went to court, etc. I represented myself until January 2006, when I appointed Haden's Solicitors to represent me and they were brilliant.

Unless anyone's been through the

same situation themselves, they cannot begin to imagine the intense stress. You feel depressed, sickened to your stomach, that you face losing everything. You have the grief of losing a family member, then the stress of losing the home you love. You don't want to be uprooted from your home, community and life you've always known.

Mr Davies has always lived in that home, he's always been part of the community, he's had enough grief losing his mother, he's made that home beautiful, why should he have to leave it?

The case with my home eventually went in my favour in November 2006. I had Mrs Mary Hill, a former mayor of

Dudley and councillor, as one of my witnesses. The case ended up being presided over by a high court judge. Somehow I stuck in there.

I want to help Mr Davies. My husband and I will also sign the petition. More empathy should be shown to people. These people who tell people they've got to come out of the home they've know all their lives, the home they've looked after, etc, how would they like it if the same was done to them? If Mr Davies wants any help and backing from me, he's got it 100 percent.

M CADDICK
Woodsetton
Dudley

Hippodrome would be a popular venue

IT'S ALL gone very quiet on whether Dudley Hippodrome is pulled down, or have the council come to their senses and started to listen to the thousands of people who put their names forward to save this wonderful building?

Theatre has never been so popular. My wife and I often go down to London care of the Express & Star Readers, and you can't get a ticket for love or money at times. It's the same with local theatres, they are thriving and recently we popped over to Stourbridge Town Hall to catch the very popular Cole Porter's Anything Goes. Every night and matinees the place was packed. So we are sure that if we gave Dudley Hippodrome a new life, the theatre would be packed. People are fed up with TV and, in some cases, all the four letter words in many of the programmes.

Dudley Council needs to wake up. Gone are the days when Dudley had a thriving town centre. We had a railway, a sport centre for soccer and cricket. We often saw Worcester CCC playing their matches and had four cinemas. I could go on.

We now have a great speedway team, Dudley Heathens, they have a tremendous following but the council would rather let them use other tracks. What a waste.

I was born in Dudley, I lived in the Dock Lane area, my big friend of those days was Duncan Edwards, tragically killed in the Munich air disaster, a great footballer who could have been the greatest. My wife and I now live in Stourbridge, a really thriving town - a new bus station, a £50m Tesco in the town centre plus new shops, new houses and flowers in boxes giving the town centre a colourful look and winning prizes for the town. There's also plenty of clubs.

We love our zoo and Black Country museum but you only visit them once a year. The theatre will treat us to great shows every week.

J WARDLE
Envile Street
Stourbridge

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle
Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Simple solution to the problem with pensions

WE have a problem with pensions. On the one hand the private sector feel aggrieved by the pensions received in the public sector and on the other hand the public sector employees are not happy about having to pay increased charges to maintain their pensions.

Why not offer every worker a final salary public sector pension underwritten by the government and do away with the state pension? It could be offered on a voluntary basis and everyone joining would be subject to the same rules of contribution. The pension industry would do anything to stop it but they would have to participate in some form or other to avoid going out of business. It would certainly put paid to those high-flying bonus seekers remunerated at the expense of the public.

The downside would be that with the state pension gone, which may in any case be the ultimate objective of the government, anyone without a pension would be reliant on means tested benefits.

This system is so simple, I am surprised that no one has thought of it before. Or, sadly in my naivety have I drifted into the world of idealism.

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CLUB NEWS

History of women's glass role

MY TIME OVER FIFTIES

THE October meeting began with a talk from Kate Round about the role of women in the glass industry. Kate's research traces women's role up to the modern day.

Looking at the Stourbridge glass industry one of the first women Kate found in her research was Sara Worrall, who married Michael Grazebrook II. Sara ran Audnam Glassworks after his death in 1766.

In the Dudley archives are papers relating to Catherine Littlewood who was employed to decorate the blanks that she had to buy first, earning 25 per quarter. By 1885 J. Northwood had an etching shop in Barnett Lane, employing 50 to 60 women, who were allowed to use Northwood's etching machine and had a women supervisor.

Also in the archives are papers relating to Phoebe Cartwright, who signed apprenticeship papers in August 1882, bound for five years unless she died or married, to work at a rate of seven shillings per week. She was a marker and decorator of glass, and also had to instruct other employees.

In 1917 due to labour shortages, agreements were made with the unions to allow women into the glass factory, but if there were work shortages women were to be "reduced" first.

On November 27, David Skitt will talk about the Severn Valley Railway.

Names that made a county famous



Sister Dora and David Garrick featured in Alan Lewis' talk on Staffordshire

ONCE the usual business was completed, Chairman Ursula McInnes introduced speaker Alan Lewis was introduced to talk on "Things you might not know about Staffordshire from 918."

It was a very interesting and enjoyable talk. Many famous and interesting people came from Staffordshire. In 1974 the borders changed, prior to that Wolverhampton was in Staffordshire.

Charles II hid near Boscobel House in an oak tree, David Garrick, an actor, in 1759 wrote Hearts of Oak, Dorothy Pattinson - Sister Dora - was stationed in Walsall and looked after many wounded soldiers.



PENN TOWNSWOMEN

Eighteen Staffordshire men won the VC in the two World Wars, Colin Grazier from Tamworth assisted in obtaining two instruction books on the Enigma Code Machine from a sinking U-boat. He was awarded a posthumous George Cross.

In 1927, the Sunbeam Mystery, built in Wolverhampton, with 1000hp, became the first non-American to run and beat the land speed record on Daytona Beach in the USA at 203.79 mph.

On November 27, Richard Bifield will give a talk on 'A Brief History of Telford'.

Attempt to vacuum budgie

THE BLACK COUNTRY SOCIETY - KINGSWINFORD BRANCH

AT the October meeting, Alan Peace gave an amusing talk on 'Never Work with Children and Animals'.

Alan spoke about various animals he and his family have had, starting with trying to vacuum the pet budgie at the age of nine.

His wife and family have fed bats that have become dehydrated and baby rabbits

who have become orphaned. Alan has also been involved in organising trips for under-privileged children.

On November 20, the speaker is David Burton-Pye. On December 11, Mike Dickens will talk about the

'BBC during the 1930s' followed by wine and mince pies.

Talks are open to all and take place at 7.45pm at the Church Centre, behind St. Mary's Church Kingswinford.

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NEWS

Santas on the run to help hospice in festive season



Staff from the fundraising and lottery office at Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge prepare for the Santa Jog

WORKERS at a hospice have launched the appeal for runners to take part in its annual Santa Jog.

Fundraisers will create a jolly spectacle when they don red suits as they take to the 5k route around Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park. The event, organised by staff at Mary Stevens Hospice, will take place on December 8.

There will be a mass warm up when people can enjoy festive music before they run, jog or stroll around the park.

More than 600 people took part in the festive event last year, helping to raise around £20,000 for the charity.

Kinver Rotary Sleigh also travelled down the mall bringing Father Christmas to see some of the children taking

part. The hospice's fundraising team hope this year's Santa Jog will generate even more cash.

Staff say the event is suitable for all ages and team entries are welcome from families, schools, colleges or businesses.

Community fundraiser Vanessa Wale said: "It is such a surreal sight to see a blanket of red and white moving around the park with so many people dressed in Santa suits. This is definitely a feel good event for the whole family to enjoy - a great start to Christmas."

The entry fee is £12 for adults and £5 for children under 12, which includes free Santa outfits for adults and antlers and red noses for youngsters.

Mary Stevens Hospice offers care to people with conditions including cancer, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease.

The hospice, based in Hagley Road, needs around £2 million a year to fund care for patients suffering long-term and life-limiting illnesses.

It relies on donations and fundraising from the community to raise more than 80 per cent of its annual running costs.

People can register to take part in the Santa Jog, which starts at 10am, online by visiting the website at www.marystevenshospice.co.uk or calling the fundraising team on 01384 377778.

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THE WAY I SEE IT

Prime Minister pleased by tool firm's success

AT Prime Minister's Questions I highlighted the success of Black Country manufacturing.

Earlier this year Dudley South manufacturing business Petford Tools accessed the regional growth fund, creating 23 jobs as a result.

I asked the PM to join me in congratulating managing director Melvin Sinar and major customers Jaguar Land Rover, Bentley and JCB on that success and to consider visiting the company with me on his next visit to the Black Country.

The PM replied that he would be delighted to make that visit if at all possible. He has indeed made visits with me in the past to look at what is happening in the Black Country in terms of greater job opportunities.

"That is part of the picture of a country where there are 1.4 million more people in private sector employment. In spite of the predictions that we would lose jobs, 1 million more people are in work in Britain today", the PM told the House.

The Government has announced radical reforms to pension charges designed to help people who have worked hard and done the right thing by saving for their retirement.

The Government will introduce a cap on pension charges to save hardworking people thousands of pounds;

Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views



'The Government will introduce a cap on pension charges to save hard-working people thousands of pounds'

and make sure employers and savers are better-informed about the pensions available, so they can make the choice that is best for them.

The Government will now consult on the best way of reducing these charges. This is great news for hardworking people in Dudley and the Black Country who are doing the right thing and saving for retirement. It will help ensure they get the value for money from their pension that they deserve.

Conservatives have already taken action to cut fuel duty and income tax and we are changing the law to force energy companies to put customers on the lowest tariff. This announcement is another step Conservatives in Government are taking to help people who want to work hard and get on in life

I met with Claire Colling, club secretary, and members at Wall Heath Tennis Club

along with Natalie Neale, Conservative candidate for Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, and Kingswinford South Councillors Patrick Harley and Peter Miller. We had a good conversation about the tired state of the existing clubhouse, which is several decades old and has been patched up well beyond its intended lifespan. I have pledged my support to the club's efforts to secure new clubhouse facilities at Envile Road Playing Fields, Envile Road, Wall Heath.

I agreed to provide guidance and proof read the club's application to the Landfill Communities Fund operated by Cory Environmental. Natalie Neale and Councillors Patrick Harley and Peter Miller have agreed to offer guidance on completing any future application to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council's community forums capital allocation fund.

The club also has ambitious plans for fundraising, including a festive quiz night, details of which will be posted on the group's Facebook page.

Local sports provision is really important in keeping people fit and healthy and grassroots tennis is a big part of the solution in our borough.

Let's hope that, with improved facilities in the future at Wall Heath Tennis Club, the chances of finding our own Andy Murray to go on and win Wimbledon will increase.

I undertook a series of home visits to elderly residents who find it hard to attend a constituency advice surgery. I also visited shopkeepers and stallholders at Townsend Place, Kingswinford, where I caught up with Sgt Chris Collins.

I was delighted to welcome Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, the Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, to the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill for Dudley Conservative Group's dinner which 250 local Conservatives attended. The evening was a huge success.

I spent Saturday afternoon delivering Wordsley InTouch leaflets.

Chris Kelly can be contacted via 01384 211 041, office@chriskelly.mp or House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. See www.chriskelly.mp

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Infectious laughter, happy moments and enjoying 'me' time – meet denture implant couple John and Gillian.

Love is sharing smiles, a second chance of romance and two . . .

Transformations



Steven Burchell
Dip CDT RCS (Eng)
(GDC108353)

LOVE is a second chance of romance, embracing life and sharing smiles – lots of them. For retired couple Gillian and John, sharing time together, enjoying holidays, meals out and trips to the theatre, life has opened an unexpected new chapter of happiness after they both lost their partners.

Their laughter is infectious and their zest for life inspirational. The widow and widower, both young 70-somethings, met at a mutual friend's golden wedding party and the rest, as they say, is history. But John didn't only discover a new soul mate, he also found a new patient for dentist Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS (Eng).

Principal of the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley, Steven says: "They're such refreshing company and I am thrilled they are so happy together.

"But I'm also pleased we were able to resolve a long-standing lower denture

problem for Gillian as well as create a lovely warm smile for her that suits her personality."

John recalls he was first to attend the Denture Clinic after spending nearly four years "perusing stories in the papers" about Steven's work.

Like many denture wearers he had encountered stabilisation problems with his lower denture as gums receded with the normal ageing process. "I knew I had to get something done because when I was driving my lower teeth could dance up and down," says John.

Crunchy salads

Steven referred him to dental implantologist Jon Pugh BDS MSc, with whom the dentist has long-standing professional relationship.

"I decided to go for an implant-retained over-denture which clips on to two fixings. I would never let anything stop me from enjoying a meal out before I had the implants, but things are great now. I can have steak, eat crunchy salads and feel

free to have anything off the menu," he says.

Gillian had endured a similar stabilisation problem for two years and was persuaded by John to see Steven because her dentures "were always loose."

Again an implant-retained over-denture was prescribed and Mr Pugh also rebuilt Gillian's upper front teeth with crowns. The results are obvious: Natural looking, functional teeth and an engaging smile.

"Previous dental treatment could never resolve my problems. If I ate out I'd have to order soft options," but I put up with it," says Gillian.

"We laugh a lot, smile a lot and enjoy life. This is my 'me' time," she adds.

And what of their experience at the Denture Clinic? "Steven is like family to us," says John.

Steven added: "By using implant retained over-dentures we can guarantee to resolve stability issues. We prescribe and produce our dentures on the premises and it means I can be fastidious about quality."

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NEWS

Judge sends arsonist in library fire to hospital

AN ARSONIST who started a blaze in the men's toilets at a library – sparking an evacuation and causing £6,000 damage – has been made subject of a hospital order.

Dean Challoner was told his actions at Dudley Library on September 5 last year had put lives at risk.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that the library, in St James's Road, Dudley, had been busy at the time with the users being evacuated quickly.

Suspicious

Challoner, of Vale Court, Cradley Heath, had been seen by a member of staff who became suspicious because he smelled of smoke and had ash in his hair.

Mr David Lees, prosecuting, told the court Challoner had been asked if he had any knowledge of the fire and told a member of staff a toilet roll dispenser had simply 'gone up in smoke'.

The fire caused a lot of damage and, following his arrest, Challoner told police officers he 'didn't mean to do it.'

The 23-year-old pleaded

guilty to one charge of arson and being reckless as to whether life was endangered at a previous hearing.

Challoner was made the subject of a hospital order by Judge Nicholas Webb at the end of Thursday's hearing.

A consultant psychiatrist told the court Challoner had problems controlling his impulsive behaviour and starting fires 'helped him gain a positive regard from others'.

Judge Webb ruled the hospital order for Challoner, who had not been prosecuted for two fires reported at his home, should be restricted – which means he will have to stay in hospital. He said: 'It is clear lives were put at risk and the library fire could have had far more serious consequences.'

Teen tees off in an international final



Golfer Jake Walley, aged 16, from Wollaston has qualified for a European final being held in Spain

A TEENAGED golfer will tee off against competition from the UK and overseas after reaching the European final of a prestigious competition for junior players.

Jake Walley, aged 16, will travel to southern Spain on November 23 for the event where he will pit his skills against 40 other top competitors. The youngster, from Wollaston, booked his place in the grand final of the Andalucia Junior European Open at a qualifier held at Ingestre Golf Club, in Staffordshire.

Jake, who has a handicap of three, is a member of Himley Golf Club and trains at the Mark Sparrow Golf Academy. He has also just finished his first season playing for Staffordshire County. He is a sports student at Stourbridge College.

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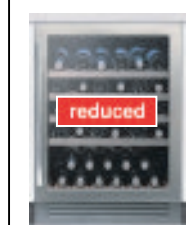
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NEWS

'We will remember them'



Mayor Councillor Alan Finch pays respects to those people of the borough who made the ultimate sacrifice

THE NATION fell silent on Monday to remember the war dead on Armistice Day following a high turn out at Remembrance Sunday events across the region.

Veterans braved the rain and cold along with councillors and members of the public to attend the service at the Clock Tower in Priory Street in Dudley at 11am on Monday.

Sacrifices

The ceremony, which marks the end of the First World War, featured the laying of wreaths and a two minute silence.

Councillor Alan Finch, Mayor of Dudley, said: "We had an excellent turn out despite the very poor weather which just goes to show the strength of



The ATC band lead the Remembrance Day parade through Dudley town centre on Sunday

feeling an event like this has in Dudley."

In Dudley, thousands of people flocked to pay their respects to the heroes of the armed forces at the annual Remembrance Sunday parade and service.

Councillors, cadets, students from Dudley College were among the people who packed Coronation Gardens for the service.

The ceremony was held in front of the cenotaph.

The parade featured armed forces veterans and music from the Salvation Army band.

Councillor Finch said: "Our Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day services are two extremely important events because they provide us with an opportunity to remember the huge sacrifices our armed forces men and women make for us."

Hundreds of people also attended a service in Lower Gornal on Sunday.

A service took place at St James' Church with a wreath laid on behalf of the Burma Star Association by three great-grandchildren of former member Arthur Box.

Mr Box's son Dave was Parade Marshal for the event, which was the church's best-attended service yet.

He said: "With modern warfare more families are affected, and there are families in the village with people that fought, and as more and more youngsters go out there more and more families get involved."

"Also schools promote services a lot more than before, so we have more youngsters coming now than those aged in their 20s and 30s."

There were also Remembrance Sunday events in Sedgley, Quarry Bank and Kingswinford.

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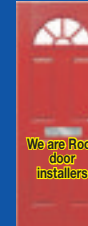
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NEWS

Vintage vacuums are young Harry's hobby



Harry Burrows, nine, from Lapal, Halesowen, pictured with some of the vacuum cleaners in his unusual collection.

MOST nine-year-old boys would rather run a mile from a vacuum cleaner – but Harry Burrows likes to collect them.

As a baby, the hum of a vacuum cleaner had the same effect as a lullaby, as he slept through his mum's housework.

Later, he was not content with a toy vacuum cleaner – so for his fourth birthday his parents gave him a 'Henry'.

Now while his friends are mad on computer games and football, there's nothing Harry likes better than hoovering up vacuum cleaners – and the older the better.

Grandfather

He's a mother's dream, as he not only likes to work with his grandfather Derek Burrows to maintain and recondition cleaners but also to use them to help with the housework.

His collection includes a 1930s Electrolux model, which he has entered into Cradley Heath electrical company Chapman's competition to find the oldest working domestic electrical appliance in the Black Country.

Harry is the proud owner of two pump-action, non-electric vacuums from the early 1900s, a 1960s Hoover Junior and a 1940s Electrolux. His parents have lost count of the appliances he has scattered around their home in Lapal, but mother Sarah reckons there are as many as 40.

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NEWS

Family celebrate with 'Queen Mum'



Nora Howell, centre, celebrates her 90th birthday surrounded by her family during a party at JB's Nightclub, Dudley

TWENTY-EIGHT grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren – that's a lot of birthdays to remember for 'queen mother' Nora Howell, who has celebrated her 90th birthday.

The huge family, who mostly live in the Black Country, had to hire a whole nightclub for her birthday party in Dudley.

"I am very proud of my family, especially when I see how the younger ones have grown up and have children of their own," she said.

Born in Clarendon in Jamaica in 1923, she grew up on the Caribbean island and married farmer Wilbert Howell in 1951.

The couple had four children – Fitz, Gilda, Kenneth and Norma – before Mr Howell emigrated to Dudley in the hope of better pay and living conditions.

He lived in Himley Road and managed to find work at Danks of Netherton, before inviting his wife, Fitz and Gilda to make the

journey to the Black Country. The couple bought a six-bedroom house in Porter Street in Dudley and six more children followed – Beverley, Royston, Millicent, David, Pauline and Randolph.

Mr Howell passed away in 1996. Mrs Howell still lives in Dudley.

Daughter Norma remembers family life in the one house.

Happy

Now aged 61 and living in Smethwick, she said: "It was a squeeze all being in the house but we are a happy family. I can say it was always lively."

"My mother always looked out for us all, she certainly knew how to raise a family. She's still our queen mother today," she said.

Among the dozens of family members who turned up for her party at JB's Nightclub in Castle Hill was the youngest addition to the family – Mrs Howell's great grandson Jakob Holden, who is just three-and-a-half months old.



Nora Howell

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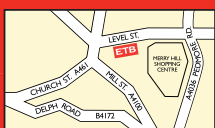
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NEWS

Hidden money is linked to cockle pickers tragedy



Yan Li, aged 43



Bo Li, aged 46

TWO fraudsters, who laundered cash linked to a human trafficking operation which caused the deaths of 21 cockle pickers, have been jailed for the second time.

Sisters Bo and Yan Li, who worked from an address in Dudley and one in Shirley, Birmingham, were originally jailed in 2009 for their links to the Morecambe Bay tragedy in 2004.

But the pair hid their ill-gotten cash, only to try to spend it again within weeks of being released. They were caught using £20 notes which were no longer legal tender.

At a confiscation hearing at Birmingham Crown Court in 2011 it was established that Bo and Yan Li, aged 46 and 43 respectively, had both benefited from criminal activity by £1.07 million, which they were ordered to pay back.

Hid

But just three weeks after they were released later that year, suspicions were raised about the pair when they were arrested in Bath. The Chinese nationals had been caught trying to pass-off £20 notes that, unknown to them, had been withdrawn from circulation while they were in prison in 2010.

They were staying at a hotel in Chippenham at the time of their latest arrest but before police had chance to search their room Yan Li's

boyfriend, Philip Freeman, 64, removed more than £22,000 and hid it in a locker in the spa area overnight. Staff found the cash and called police when Freeman returned to collect it the next morning. After picking up the money, he drove it to Bo Li's boyfriend's house, 65-year-old John Bowkett, in Solihull. He put it in a plastic container and buried it in his back garden, where it was later discovered by police.

Freeman admitted delivering the cash to Bowkett who then led officers to the bottom of the garden where he handed over the money.

All four were charged with money laundering and convicted by a jury at Birmingham Crown Court on September 20.

On Friday the Li sisters were jailed for two years, Freeman received a four-month term suspended for 12 months, while Bowkett was handed a six-month community work order and a four-month curfew. Freeman and Bowkett were each ordered to pay £10,000 costs.

Detective Sergeant Derek Tinsley said: "They clearly have no remorse for the way in which they obtained this money and wasted no time in trying to spend it on their release from prison. We will probably never know where the money was hidden for the last few years but we are convinced it was kept from the original people-trafficking operation."

The Morecambe Bay disaster saw 21 Chinese immigrants drown.

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MEMORY LANE



Little to smile about – this rare photograph shows the inside West Bromwich's Union Workhouse laundry, in Hallam Street



Albion stars Brian Whitehouse, Don Howe, and Roy Horobin sign their first professional contracts in 1950



'The Golden Mile' – the name given the long stretch of West Bromwich High Street, which is pictured looking towards Dartmouth Square in around 1920



The unique No 14 bus from West Bromwich to Walsall



The sideways-facing armchairs of the No 14 bus

All aboard bucket seats on the unique No14 bus

THERE is a sense of almost boyish excitement as Terry Price pores over the pictures in his new book.

"I was really chuffed when I got that one," he says, pointing to the interior shot of a bus.

Terry just loves photographs of West Bromwich. It doesn't matter whether they are from 1901 or 1994, to the retired television engineer every picture tells a story.

His latest book, *West Bromwich Recollections*, is his seventh such publication, and the discovery of every picture brings with it fresh excitement.

The interior of the bus was a real find, and is unique in that instead of the usual forward-facing seats, the top deck has a line of bucket-style armchairs facing sideways.

"In 1930, around the time the picture was taken, the route from West Bromwich to Walsall would have been through open countryside, and the

by **Mark Andrews**

seats were designed to allow passengers to look out of the windows and enjoy the view," he says.

The view would certainly have been very different from the scene today, but it is not hard to pity the poor conductor, who would have had the unenviable task of clambering up the narrow gangway alongside the seats.

Another interesting curio is the "Threepenny Bit" fish and chip shop in Parsonage Street, which takes its name not from the price of the chips – that would have been remarkable, even in 1967 – but from its curious geometric profile. Sadly, it was demolished around 13 years ago.

Terry believes the 1923 photograph showing the inside of the world-famous Hudson's soap works is the only one in existence – Robert Spear Hudson was the inventor of modern soap powder.

Included are images of West Brom-

wich Albion players signing their first professional contracts, as well as a magnificent beacon built to celebrate King George V's Silver Jubilee in 1935.

The area covered is broader than many publications, taking in places such as Great Bridge and Friar Park.

For Terry, recording West Bromwich's past is very much a labour of love. He has never made a penny from any of his seven books, having donated all the proceeds to local charities.

He ruminates over the changes of the past few decades. "They used to call West Bromwich High Street the Golden Mile, because there was that long stretch of shops. The shopkeepers would have lived nearby and their children would have gone to the local school." Then he pauses for thought. "You do realise that we are the last generation that will be able to remember the high street, don't you?"

● *West Bromwich Recollections* by Terry Price is available from the author priced £9.99 on 01922 635891.



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FOCUS ON KINGSWINFORD AND WALL HEATH

Research group launch bid to find out more on village war heroes

A LABOUR of love to remember all 112 men from a neighbouring town and village who served in the world wars is drawing to a close – but the lives of five heroes remain a mystery.

In just a year, the Wall Heath and Kingswinford War Memorials Research Group has pieced together information about 107 of the local men known to have served during the two biggest conflicts of the 20th century.

Jigsaw

Now they need help to complete the final piece of the jigsaw by finding out more about their 'mystery men' to round off a book to be published in 2014.

The group, spearheaded by Joy Marshall and Lis Corfield, wants the book to pay tribute to the men whose names appear on the war memorials in Wall Heath and Kingswinford. But information about five of the names on the memorials – F Willetts, W Deeley, J T Williams, and W S E Southall (all First World War) and W Holden (Second World War) – has eluded them so far.

It is possible that some of them may have died from the effects of their service after leaving the forces, rather than during the wars.

"We are anxious to get information and photographs of them so they are not totally forgotten," said Lis, of



Joy Marshall, from the research group



Hero – Lt Robert Cadman

Penzer Street, Kingswinford. The group recently held a display at The Cross pub, which was also attended by local councillors.

Among those for which a full history has been pieced together is Flight Lieutenant Arthur Robert 'Bob' Cadman, of Kingswinford, who was decorated with

the Distinguished Flying Medal in 1940. Born in 1920 he attended Glynne School, followed by King Edward VI Grammar School in Stourbridge, and lived in Oak Street.

Anyone with information that could help should contact Joy on 07739 572121 or Lis on 01384 401086.

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Pen pals meet after 40 years correspondence

JANE Machin and Valerie Lycette have a friendship worth writing home about.

They are pen pals who have formed a bond across the Atlantic for almost 40 years.

And now the pair have met face-to-face for the very first time – and were certainly not lost for words.

Jane, of Lower Gornal, started writing to Valerie, who lives in the American city of Seattle in 1974 when both of them were teenagers.

Originally they swapped ideas about fashion and pop music with their correspondence evolving over the years to stories about family and events in their lives.

The pen friends have remained in touch over the decades, although they now communicate more by email than letters.

Jane, 56, finally got the chance to meet her pen friend face-to-face for the first time when Valerie paid a visit during a European holiday.

“Valerie and her husband were

visiting Ireland and before she went home to Seattle decided to come and pay me a visit,” she said.

“It was wonderful getting the chance to meet after so many years. You might think we would have been lost for words but that wasn't the case. We got on wonderfully well.”

Jane added that during the visit her friend had become addicted to Cornish TV series Doc Martin, to the extent she has bought boxed sets to take home.



Jane Machin and her American pen pal Valerie Lycette during their visit to Bridgnorth



Jane still enjoys writing to her pen friend

Mini wooden Stonehenge could now be built in park

AN AMBITIOUS scheme to create a miniature version of Stonehenge in South Staffordshire which was dropped, amid fears it would become a focal point for unruly youngsters, could be revived at Baggeridge Country Park.

Villagers in Wombourne said they didn't want to press ahead with the £6,000 proposals as they were worried youths youths would ruin it.

Now it has emerged that plans are being looked at to see if it can be built at Baggeridge Country Park in Sedgley instead.

However it could see the costs of the scheme swell as a professional company would be asked to quote for the installation, footings and its workers' time.

When the scheme was first drawn up it was hoped villagers in Wombourne would take ownership of the project themselves.

Opposition

District Councillor Reg Williams told a meeting of Wombourne Parish Council: “We held our consultation and the response was mainly in opposition to it, and it should not continue in Wombourne.”

“There's been a proposal it could be at Baggeridge Country Park. That hasn't got very far at the moment. The district council is not in a position to fund it or ask for grants to fund it. A friends group could be

by Alex Homer

formed though to ask for grants though I suspect at the country park the costs of the project would be different. If it were there, it would be for the enjoyment of all of the district. Inquiries are being made to find out how much it would cost.

“The original proposal would have cost in the region of £6,000; this would be considerably different.”

After a consultation was held over the original scheme, 124 people responded including 60 objections.

If the plans had come to fruition Wombourne's Woodhenge, as it was named, would have been built on grass off Gravel Hill near the centre of the village.

It would have been 65ft in diameter and 9ft 10in high and included 24 upright beams and crossbeams to provide an enclosure for a stone round table in the centre.

Councillor Williams said people feared it would attract misbehaving youths.

Santa to switch on lights in High Street

SANTA will be visiting a fun-filled family Christmas lights event along with a host of artists and entertainers.

The free event in Cradley Heath High Street will include more artists and entertainers than ever before to celebrate the town's lights switch on by Sandwell's deputy mayor Councillor Barbara Price.

Art's stamp of approval

YOUNGSTERS are being asked to design a Christmas stamp. Dudley Philatelic Society is running a competition for the borough's eight to 12-year-olds with prizes for the top three entries.

The design must be original, colour and on A4 paper. The entrant's name, age and address should be on the reverse of the entry which should be sent to Dudley Philatelic Society, c/o J. Southall, 1 Royal Oak Road, Halesowen, B62 0DZ. Closing date is December 6.

This year the festivities, being held this Saturday, November 16 from 3pm to 8pm, promise fun for the whole family.

There will be a funfair for the children and a Christmas market with charity stalls selling jewellery, toys and festive gifts.

The lights will be switched on at 6pm.

Councillor Price said: “It will be fun for the whole family. “There will be a big funfair and more entertainment than ever before.”

Road closures will be operating from 1pm to 9pm. For more information, contact Ian Cooper on 07837 602320.



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REVIEWS

Classic romp given a Brummie twist



Table talk for Sian Brooke and Paul Hunter playing married couple Elmire and Orgon. Picture by Ellie Kurtz



Mark Williams is scruffy scoundrel Tartuffe in Rep artistic director Roxanna Silbert and Chris Campbell's version

BRUMMIE actor Mark Williams comes home to star in this rollicking, up-dated version of Moliere's 17th Century comedy.

He actually doesn't appear until half way through the first act but it is to the credit of an excellent ensemble cast that the audience does not get impatient for the Harry Potter and Father Brown actor.

Williams plays the crumpled rogue Tartuffe, who has inveigled his way into a wealthy household by persuading the master of the house Orgon that

he is a pious Christian whilst actually lusting after Orgon's wife Elmire, who then devises a plan to expose his hypocrisy.

In the capable hands of director Roxanna Silbert, this is turned into a topical fast-paced farce with lots of ribald humour, slapstick violence and local references from Lee Longlands to Wolverhampton.

Panic

On a set best described as 'Solihull baroque', Paul Hunter gives a master-class in frenetic physical comedy when the blinkered Orgon realises he has been duped - his panic is a sight to behold.

There are also fine performances from Ayesha Antoine, an absolute firecracker as mouthy maid Dorine; Janice Connolly ruling the roost as a barking mad grandmother; and Sian Brooke as the exasperated Elmire.

But the calm centre of all this frantic foolery is Williams, who doesn't waste a single gesture as the cunning fraudster.

His comic performance is spot on and, like his victims, the audience ends up charmed by the scruffy scoundrel.

If you enjoyed One Man Two Guvnors, you will love this.

Tartuffe continues at The Rep until Saturday, November 16.

Leon Burakowski

Rebel rousers don't do subtle

The Wolfe Tones, Emerald Club, Wolverhampton

THERE is nothing subtle about Irish band The Wolfe Tones, they may have been around for 50 years but their rebel rousing, political edge and anti-English establishment sentiment has not dulled in the least.

This is their last tour and it could well be a good move as there is now an anachronistic quality to their hit-you-between-the-eyes style and jingoism. This is not to say the wrongdoings of the British Government in Ireland can be forgotten but there comes a time to move on; to start the healing process rather than keep the wounds raw.

There was an atmosphere more akin to a football match with Brian Warfield doing his best to whip up the patriotic fervour.

They opened with the politically-charged Sunday Bloody Sunday, lyrics by John

Lennon, with Warfield on banjo, Tommy Byrne on guitar and vocals and Noel Nagle on tin whistle.

The audience in the Cross Street North club seemed to be in two factions those who were there to listen to the music of an Irish band and those who wanted to show their fervent patriotic feelings through terrace style chanting and singing. This is not to say it was aggressive or intimidating.

Warfield preceded most songs with some kind of political comment and continued to try and stoke a rebel rousing atmosphere with songs such as God Save Ireland. The concert went on past midnight finally ending with the Irish national anthem and had lasted best part of two hours, so you can't say the Tones don't give value for money.

Danny Farragher

Pilgrims' prowess

Pilgrims' Way Newhampton Folk Club, Newhampton Inn, Wolverhampton

FOR a four piece band Pilgrims' Way have the baggage of a travelling orchestra.

The great thing is they are not for show, the band is versatile and wonderfully talented and switch instruments ad infinitum including the hurdy gurdy, the kazoo, Jew's jaw harp, squeezebox, accordion, various fiddles, guitars and mandolin.

There is also a fantastic energy and enthusiasm when they perform.

Fiddle

Elf-like Lucy Wright, mainly on vocals but also playing second fiddle - an ironic misnomer - and Jew's harp, she even threw in a little dancing.

There was incredible fiddle playing from Tom Kitching who also doubled up with the mandolin. Edwin Beasant, who on this occasion mostly played accordion, chipped in on squeezebox, harmonica and guitar.

The fourth and newest member was Jon Loomes who played the evocative hurdy gurdy but also moved to squeezebox and guitar when required.

Coming from Stockport and taking their name from a Rudyard Kipling poem, in some ways they are like a miniature Bellowhead but with a more traditional sound.

Pilgrims' Way obviously enjoy what they do and their enthusiasm comes through. They are a delightful and immensely talented band.

Danny Farragher

Bugg breaks into a smile at sing-along

Jake Bugg, 02 Academy, Birmingham

SERIOUS young singer-songwriter Jake Bugg let his pokerface slip twice during the third of his sell-out Birmingham dates, revealing that rarest of sights - a Jake Bugg smile.

The 19-year-old from Nottingham seemed surprised by the response of the Birmingham crowd, who sang along with every song from his chart-topping self-titled debut album like they were 20-year-old classics.

But then the talented teenager - who upset 1D fans by criticising their manufactured pop icons - does write (and co-writes) guitar-driven songs with an authentic heritage feel. Songs such as Lightning Bolt (the final encore of his 70-minute set) could have

come from the 1950s skiffle era.

Whilst other teens have been watching The X-Factor, Bugg has been listening to old Neil Young, Donovan and blues records. But the lyrics often tackle the gritty business of growing up in broken Britain, as on Two Fingers and Trouble Town.

Energy

Songs from his soon-to-be-released second album Shangri La, recorded in Malibu with Metallica and Johnny Cash producer Rick Rubin, show a heavier direction with the Jake Bugg trio delivering an epic wall-of-sound.

But Bugg has not abandoned his acoustic style. Ballad A Song About Love, also from the new album, was passionately delivered whilst Slumville Sunrise has



Jake Bugg - smiled, twice similar kinetic energy to Lightning Bolt.

Support came from rootsy country duo HoneyHoney from Los Angeles (nice but samey) and Bath band of brothers The Family Rain, a powerhouse trio featuring the Walter siblings. They have hairy heavy rock tendencies and should be worth checking out when they play The Institute in Digbeth on Saturday, November 23.

Leon Burakowski



Jessica Holliday takes a break from mucking out at Dudley Zoo

Hens find themselves star attraction

THOUSANDS tuned in to watch as a bride-to-be enjoyed a hen party with a difference – mucking out the animals at Dudley Zoo.

TV cameras rolled up at the Castle Hill attractions as the zoo took a starring role in an episode of Don't Tell The Bride, broadcast last week.

Viewers watched as Jessica Holliday, aged 27, and her friends became zoo keepers for the day as part of her hen party celebrations organised by husband-to-be, motorcycle-mad Luke Tomlinson, 28.

Impress

The BBC Three show sees the groom given £12,000 to organise the wedding – without any input from his bride.

Jessica and Luke's wedding and its build-up were featured on the edition of the show last Tuesday.

Viewers watched as Jessica and her friends were told to 'dress to impress' for the party – which would start at 7.30am. They were given directions to the zoo and travelled in convoy to Castle Hill. And

despite the group being slightly overdressed – wearing frocks and high heels – they saw the funny side and were soon getting stuck in.

They thought they were going to have a day at the races but Luke had planned that treat for himself and his friends. But Jessica and some of her guests are vets, so they were not out of their depth when asked to help with cleaning up giraffe dung and mucking out Barbary sheep. They also had a go at feeding lemurs and sea lions.

Jessica, from Derbyshire, said: "I wasn't expecting to be shovelling poo on my hen day."

The show was filmed in August with keepers Jay Haywood, Laura Robbins, David Zebedee and presenter Becky Iwahashi.

Rachel Hickman, of Dudley Zoo, said: "Jessica and the girls were slightly overdressed for the occasion in smart dresses."

The groom redeemed himself on the big day with a convoy of 60 Harley Davidson motorcyclists leading his bride's car to their wedding at Donnington Park.



Dinner is served – The hen party from the BBC TV's Don't Tell The Bride are filmed feeding the sea lions at Dudley Zoo

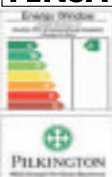
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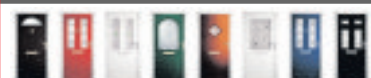
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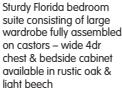
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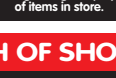
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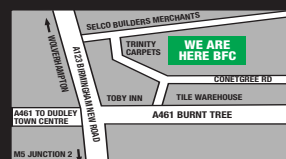
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What's On!

Soweto Gospel singers visit Alex

GRAMMY Award-winning group Soweto Gospel Choir is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a trip to Birmingham.

The choir will be at the New Alexandra Theatre on November 21 as part of a UK tour. Over the past 10 years they have collaborated with artists ranging from Stevie Wonder to Robert Plant. They have performed in front of President Bill Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Festive favourites at Symphony Hall

ACTOR Mark Williams, currently starring in Tartuffe at Birmingham Rep, will bring festive fun to the stage this Christmas with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

The Harry Potter and Fast Show actor will join the orchestra and its choirs for Festive Favourites, carols and humorous seasonal stories at the Symphony Hall on December 19 at 7:30pm, December 22 at 3pm and 7:30 and December 23 at 7:30.

Illness forces new date for rock gig

MOTÖRHEAD, the loudest band in rock 'n' roll, have rescheduled their November tour due frontman Lemmy's illness. The band were due to play the Civic Hall on November 19 but that gig will now take place on February 17, 2014. Tickets for the original date are valid or can be refunded.

Liam's Beady Eye and rising stars getting ready to rock

Beginning to feel a lot like Christmas

WITH tickets selling fast and several performances in Birmingham already sold out, Birmingham Royal Ballet's spectacular production of fairytale The Nutcracker – created by the company's Director Laureate Sir Peter Wright – returns to its home at Birmingham Hippodrome this month.

One of the world's most celebrated family Christmas shows will be danced from Friday, November 22, to Thursday, December 12, at the Hurst Street theatre.

Generosity

Sir Peter created the production about Clara's Christmas adventures in 1990 to thank Birmingham for its generosity towards the company following its move from Sadler's Wells, London.

The Nutcracker immediately triumphed, establishing itself as the finest version in the country during the Christmas calendar of entertainment.



Dance of the Mirlitons in The Nutcracker with Laetitia Lo Sardo as Clara and with Jade Heusen and Nicki Moffatt as the Mirlitons
Picture by Roy Smiljanic

ONE of the most exciting new young London bands of the year, Palma Violets, will kick off their UK tour with a gig at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on Monday.

The Lambeth four-piece, already creating a major buzz stateside, had a breakthrough appearance on Jools Holland's show earlier this year and won many fans with their debut album 180.

Gallagher

Other major gigs include a Monday Wolverhampton Civic Hall concert by Beady Eye, fronted by Liam Gallagher from Oasis. The band are back in action after guitarist Gem Archer suffered a fractured skull and broken leg in accidents which caused them to pull out of the V Festival. Synth rock veteran Gary Numan brings his machine music to the Wulfrun Hall on Tuesday.

Birmingham's Editors return home for a gig at the O2 Academy on Saturday. The same venue hosts Scouting For Girls on Tuesday.

Mutya, Keisha and Siobhan of The Sugababes have a gig at Digbeth's The Institute tonight (Thursday) and the same venue hosts Naughty Boy tomorrow and Reef on Saturday.

Former Stone Bill Wyman brings his Rhythm Kings to



Palma Violets – Slade Rooms

the Symphony Hall tonight and British R&B greats Jazze B's and Soul II Soul are at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow. South African jazz legend Hugh Masekela joins pianist Larry Willis at the Town Hall on Saturday.

Sharleen Spiteri's Texas on Monday and Bryan Ferry on Tuesday both have sold out Symphony Hall gigs.

Stourbridge rockers Ned's Atomic Dustbin celebrate their 25th year with a short tour including a gig at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Saturday, November 23.

Monologues get new leading lady

THE Vagina Monologues will be making its return to the West Midlands as part of a nationwide tour.

Eve Ensler's theatrical hit will return to Birmingham's New Alexander Theatre on November 22 with new leading lady Diane Keen, who recently completed a 10-year stint on popular BBC soap Doctors and is making her first return to the stage in more than a decade.

She will be joined by two other soap stars – former Hollyoaks actresses Terri Dwyer and Hollie-Jay Bowles – for the monologues. A proportion of ticket sales from the tour will go towards the international women's charity V-Day, which was established by the show's creator.

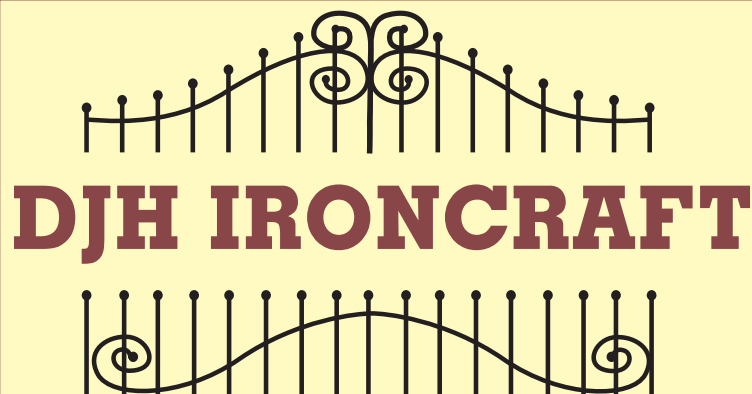
Choir and sinfonia cathedral concert

MUSIC lovers can hear Birmingham Royal Ballet's orchestra as part of a special choral event.

The Royal Ballet Sinfonia will be performing at Birmingham's St Philip's Cathedral, under the baton of music director Koen Kessels, at the concert on November 21. They will be joined by the city's Birmingham Cathedral Choir for the concert, starting at 7.30pm.

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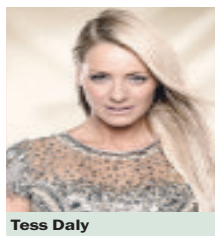
Express & Star

What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 16.11.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Strictly Come Dancing BBC1, 6.30pm
For those who reckon it's grim up north, brace yourself for a big surprise. This week's edition comes from the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool, and there's nothing miserable about that world famous place. All the stops will be pulled out to impress at Britain's home of ballroom dancing; you can bet that costume designer Vicky Gill will have been working overtime to prepare the most lavish, sequin-laden frocks viewers can imagine with which the nine remaining celebrities will dazzle the crowd. Following a week's break, Bruce Forsyth returns to the show, alongside Tess Daly.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live, 11.30 Food & Drink. (R) **12.00 Football Focus, 12.45 Saturday Sportday, 1.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather, 1.15 Bargain Hunt, (R) 2.00 Live International Rugby Union, 4.30 A Question of Sport, (R) 5.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather, 5.20 Children in Need: The Best Bits.**
6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present from Blackpool Tower Ballroom, where the venue may be different but it will be business as usual as the couples strive to achieve perfection.
8.00 Atlantis. The trio are joined by Pythagoras's feisty younger brother Arcas to escort a valuable cargo across the desert with a ramshackle group of strangers.
8.50 The National Lottery Live. Chris Evans reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball.
9.00 Casualty. Lily suspects steroids are to blame for a violent dispute between rugby players, while a policeman is brought in with a fractured leg after a confrontation at a colleague's funeral.
9.50 BBC News: Weather.
10.10 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End. (2007) The swashbuckling rogues join forces with old foe Barbossa to rescue Captain Jack Sparrow from the land of the dead. Fantasy adventure sequel, with Johnny Depp and Geoffrey Rush; National Lottery Update.
12.45 Film: Highlander: Endgame. (2000) **2.20 Weatherview, 2.25 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two, 7.35 Film: Emergency Call, (1952) 9.05 Film: The Journey of Natty Gann, (1985) Disney adventure, starring John Cusack and Meredith Salenger.
10.40 Reel History of Britain, (R) 11.10 The Life of Birds, (R) 12.00 Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds, (R) 12.45 Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds, (R) 1.30 The A to Z of TV Cooking, 2.15 EastEnders, 3.45 Escape to the Country, (R) 4.25 Flog It! 4.55 Live International Rugby Union, Ireland v Australia (Kick-off 5.45pm).
7.30 Live Rugby League World Cup. The third quarter-final (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Chapman introduces coverage of this evening's fixture at the DW Stadium in Wigan. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
10.00 QI. Stephen Fry is joined by Ronni Ancona, Dave Gorman, Lee Mack and regular panellist Alan Davies to answer questions on the theme of all things infantile. (R)
10.30 Formula 1: United States Grand Prix - Qualifying Highlights. The key moments from the battle for pole position at the United States Grand Prix, the 18th round of the campaign, held at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.
11.45 Film: Stark Raving Mad. (2002) A man saddled with his late brother's debts comes up with a scheme to rob a bank - but nothing goes according to plan. Crime comedy, starring Seann William Scott and Timm Sharp.
1.20 Film: Radio On, (1979) 3.00 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou, 6.10 Matt Hatter Chronicles, (R) 6.35 Dino Dan, (R) 6.50 Dino Dan, (R) 7.00 Canimals, (R) 7.10 Canimals, (R) 7.15 Canimals, (R) 7.25 Sooty, 7.35 Horrid Henry, (R) 7.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, 8.15 Bottom Knockout Street, 8.30 Munch Box, 9.25 ITV News, 9.30 The Home of Fabulous Cakes, (R) 10.30 Murder, She Wrote, (R) 11.25 ITV News: Weather, 11.35 Surprise Surprise, (R) 12.40 You've Been Framed! (R) 1.10 Doc Martin, (R) 2.10 The X Factor Results, (R) 3.45 Film: Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back, (1980)
6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News: Weather.
6.30 New You've Been Framed! Dogs reveal where they stand on Europe.
7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Looch Women's Andrea McLean, football pundit Robbie Savage, Liberty X singer Jessica Taylor and comedian Rory McGrath take on one of the trivia experts.
8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary hosts the Great British Songbook Week, as the remaining acts face increasing pressure to pull out all the stops and impress with note-perfect performances.
9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Sarah Millican and One Direction.
10.30 ITV News: Weather.
10.45 Take Me Out. A guitar teacher, a 999 call operator, a choir leader and a butcher take part. (R)
12.00 Jackpot247, 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA, (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.00 The Treacle People, (R) 6.10 The Hoobs, (R) 6.35 The Hoobs, (R) 7.00 Volleyball, (R) 8.00 The Morning Line, 9.00 The American Football Show, 10.05 Fraser, (R) 10.30 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 11.25 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 11.55 The Simpsons, (R) 12.25 Heston's 70s Feast, (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing, 4.00 Come Dine with Me, (R) 4.25 Come Dine with Me, (R) 5.00 Come Dine with Me, (R) 5.25 Come Dine with Me, (R) 6.00 Come Dine with Me. Julia Smith hosts the final party in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 The Political Slot. MP James Wharton explains his European Union Referendum.
7.05 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. Coulson works the system to save Ward and Fitz. (R)
8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud revisits Lucie Fairweather, who decided to carry on with a project to build an eco-friendly family home in Suffolk after the death of her partner. (R)
9.00 Film: Black Swan. (2010) Premiere. A repressed, sheltered ballet dancer is encouraged by a director to explore her darker impulses at the risk of her sanity. Drama, starring Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis.
11.10 Film: The Deep Blue Sea. (2011) Premiere. Drama, with Rachel Weisz and Tom Hiddleston.
1.05 Stand Up for the Week. Paul Chowdhry hosts the satirical comedy show. (R) **1.50 Paddy's TV Guide, (R) 2.35 Hollyoaks, (R) 4.40 90210, 5.20 Deal or No Deal, (R)****

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers: Megaforce, 10.35 Sluggterra, 11.00 Inside Hollywood, 11.05 Ben Fogle's Animal Clinic, (R) 12.05 Stobart: Trucks, Trains & Planes, (R) 1.05 Film: The Christmas Card, (2006) 2.50 Film: The Town Christmas Forgot, (2010) 4.30 Film: A Grandpa for Christmas, (2007)
6.10 5 News Weekend.
6.15 D-Day: The Ultimate Conflict. The story of the critical Second World War offensive, profiling the inventors who worked behind the scenes to create an assortment of unusual machines for the Allied landings. (R)
8.00 JFK's Secret Killer: The Evidence. Documentary investigating the events during and directly after the shooting of US president John F. Kennedy, revealing a new theory as to the identity of the assassin. (R)
9.00 Battle Scared: Nightmare on Civvy Street. Chris Terrill examines why some former soldiers continue to live in a state of hypervigilance, seeing everything and everyone around them as a potential threat.
10.00 International Boxing. James DeGale v Dyah Davis. Mark Pougatch presents live coverage of the bout for the WBC Super Middleweight Silver title at Glow in Bluewater, Kent.
12.00 SuperCasino, 3.10 Charley Boorman's Extreme Frontiers, (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS, (R) 4.25 Make It Big, (R) 4.50 Roary the Racing Car, (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm, (R) 5.10 Hana's Helpline, (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm, (R) 5.30 The Funky Valley Show, (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car, (R) 5.50 Hana's Helpline, (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Rugby Union 8.00 Doctor Who: Greatest Monsters and Villains Weekend 11.30 Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 Frozen Planet 8.00 Benjamin Britten on Camera 9.00 Borgen 11.00 Queen Live in Budapest: Hungarian Rhapsody
ITV2
3.30 Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) 5.45 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) 7.25 Film: Evan Almighty (2007) 9.30 The Xtra Factor 10.30 Celebrity Juice 11.20 Fake Reaction
ITV3
3.20 Film: Columbo: A Stitch in Crime (1973) 4.55 A Touch of Frost 7.00 Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Foyles War 10.00 Bomb Girls 11.00 An Audience with Diana Ross
ITV4
1.35 Film: The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (1943) 5.00 Storage Wars 7.00 I Want That Car 8.00 Cristiano Ronaldo - Footballing Superstar 9.00 Film: Born on the Fourth of July (1989) Fact-based Vietnam War drama, starring Tom Cruise. 11.55 Film: Jarhead (2005)
E4
2.10 Film: Aliens in the Attic (2009) 4.00 Rules of Engagement 5.00 How I Met Your Mother 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 How I Met Your Mother 7.30 Suburgatory 8.00 New Girl 9.00 Film: Die Hard 4.0 (2007) Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis, Timothy Olyphant, Justin Long and Maggie Q. 11.35 The Inbetweeners
Film4
2.45 CutThroat Island (1995) 5.05 Tooth Fairy (2010) 7.10 Chalet Girl (2011) 9.00 Hot Tub Time Machine (2010) Sci-fi comedy, starring John Cusack. 10.55 Frozen (2010) Thriller, starring Emma Bell.

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 17.11.13

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CHOICE



Mandy Patinkin

Homeland

Channel 4, 9pm

In case you didn't know it, this is one of the most talked about, acclaimed American series of recent years. However, maintaining the level of brilliance that captivated audiences in the spring of 2012 is far from easy, but at least the presence of Claire Danes (Carrie), Mandy Patinkin (Saul) and F Murray Abraham (Dar Adal) helps sustain the interest in this episode. While Saul's old adversary is in custody, Berenson takes a career gamble. Meanwhile, Carrie and Quinn have a hard time containing a local police investigation.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.15** Points of View. **2.30** Live International Rugby Union. **5.05** Liffeline. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.30** BBC News: Regional News. **Weather**.

6.15 Countryfile. Julia Bradbury reveals how Benjamin Britten was inspired by the Suffolk countryside, and goes looking for wildlife in an unusual place – Sizewell B nuclear power station. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman are at Blackpool Tower Ballroom to reveal which pairs are in the dance-off, and there are performances by JLS and violinist Andre Rieu.

8.00 The Paradise. Tom is furious that Moray's new pocket-watch counter is attracting attention away from his food hall, so he asks Denise to come up with ideas for improving other departments.

9.00 Britain and the Sea. New series. David Dimbleby explores aspects of the country's maritime history, beginning with a look at the history of exploration in Devon and Cornwall. With Eileen MacArthur.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Formula 1: United States Grand Prix Highlights. Action from the penultimate race of the season.

12.25 Weather. **12.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.55** Film: The Velvet Touch. (1948) **8.30** Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets. (R) **9.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.15** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **1.00** Food & Drink. (R) **1.30** Rugby Union. **2.30** Live Rugby League World Cup. **5.00** Flog It! (R)

6.00 JFK: The Final Visit to Britain. The story of US president John F Kennedy's last trip to the UK.

6.30 Days That Shook the World. The assassination of John F Kennedy. (R)

7.00 Coast. Nick Crane travels from London to Belgium. (R)

7.05 Kennedy Home Movies. Life in one of the 20th century's most powerful families. (R)

8.00 Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels through Scandinavia.

9.00 Africa 2013: Countdown to the Rain. The rains finally arrive and the grazing animals spread out across the valley. Last in the series.

10.00 Respect: A Felix Dexter Special. A tribute to the comedian, who died last month.

10.30 Hebburn. The Pearsons deal with the aftermath of Joe's stroke. (R)

11.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Michael Bolton hosts, with Carol Vorderman, Shane Filan, Seann Walsh and Diana Vickers. (R)

11.30 Rugby League World Cup. Highlights of the quarter-finals.

12.15 Film: More Than Just a Game. (2007) **1.45** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.40** Holby City. (R) **3.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.15** Animals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.50** Victorious. **8.15** Bottom Knockout Street. **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **10.30** Sunday Side Up. **11.30** Sunday Scoop. **12.30** ITV News: Weather.

12.35 Inside the National Trust. **1.35** Love Your Garden. (R) **2.35** The X Factor. (R) **4.05** Downton Abbey. (R) **5.35** Prize Island. **6.35** Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Coronation Street. Hour-long episode. Peter steps in when David hassles Tina in the Rovers.

8.00 The X Factor Results. The two acts with the lowest number of public votes face each other in the sing-off, and for one of them the dream of stardom will be over.

9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! New series. Ant and Dec present as a fresh batch of famous faces wave goodbye to their lives of luxury and set up camp among the creepy-crawlies of the Australian jungle.

10.30 ITV News: Weather.

10.45 Off Their Rockers. Senior citizens play pranks on the public. (R)

11.15 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. Highlights of the second round of pool matches.

12.15 The Store. **2.15** Motorsport UK. **3.05** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The American Football Show. (R) **7.05** FIA GT Blancpain Endurance Season Review. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. **3.30** Film: Congo. (1995) **5.35** Film: Night at the Museum. (2006) Comedy, starring Ben Stiller.

7.40 Channel 4 News.

8.00 Queen Victoria and the Crippled Kaiser – Secret History. Documentary revealing the secret childhood of Queen Victoria's eldest grandson, the future Kaiser Wilhelm II, through a long-hidden cache of intimate family letters.

9.00 Chicas. (2011) A career gamble while his old adversary is in custody, and Carrie and Quinn struggle to contain a local police investigation.

10.00 Was It Something I Said? David Mitchell hosts the comedy panel show, with Micky Flanagan and Richard Ayoade joined by Rhod Gilbert and Josie Long in a battle of words. John Craven is tonight's narrator.

10.30 Toast of London. Steven becomes an author of erotic literature.

10.55 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. Russell Brand discusses his new DVD and Adam Hills tells Alan about his debut stand-up show. The Wanted provide the music. (R)

11.55 Fresh Meat. Kingsley dates both Heather and Josie. (R)

12.45 American Football Live. **4.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** City of Friends. (R) **7.45** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.30** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.45** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Sluggert. **11.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.00** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Film: Little Nicky. (2000) **3.35** Film: Chicks. (2011)

7.15 5 News Weekend.

7.20 Film: Rush Hour 2. (2001) Action comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker.

9.00 Film: The Book of Eli. (2010) A drifter in post-apocalyptic America battles a despot for control of a book believed to hold the key to mankind's future. Action adventure, with Denzel Washington and Gary Oldman.

11.15 Film: Once Upon a Time in Mexico. (2003) Action thriller, starring Antonio Banderas and Johnny Depp.

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.30** Doctor Who: Greatest Monsters and Villains Weekend **10.00** Family Guy **10.25** The Revolution Will Be Televised **10.55** American Dad! **11.40** Snow, Sex and Suspicious Parents

BBC Four
7.00 Billy Budd from Glyndebourne **9.45** The Golden Age of the Tram – A Streetcar Named Desire **10.45** The Golden Age of Canals **11.45** When Albums Ruled the World

ITV2
2.25 Film: Ice Age: The Meltdown (2006) **4.15** Film: Peter Pan (2003) **6.25** Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** You've Been Framed! **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** Tricked

ITV3
1.50 Inspector Morse **4.05** Murder, She Wrote **5.05** Film: Columbo: A Stitch in Crime (1973) **6.40** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Blue Murder

ITV4
3.15 Film: 633 Squadron (1964) **5.15** Film: Dunkirk (1958) **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Jaws 3 (1983) **11.05** Nicola Adams: Sports Life Stories **E4**

4.00 How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** Rules of Engagement **8.00** Film: Crocodile Dundee (1986) **10.00** Rude Tube **11.00** The Inbetweeners **11.35** Drifters

3.35 The Mistress of Spices (2005) **5.25** Son of the Mask (2004) **7.20** The Man (2005) **9.00** The Mechanic (2011) Action thriller remake, starring Jason Statham. **10.50** The Naked Gun 3 1/3: The Final Insult (1994) Comedy sequel, starring Leslie Nielsen.

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Film Choices

MONDAY

It's a Wonderful Afterlife, BBC1, 11.20pm

An Indian mother is determined to see her daughter married, and turns to murder to accomplish her goals. She finds herself haunted by the spirits of her victims, who can only rest in peace when she dies, while her daughter falls for the policeman investigating the string of suspicious deaths. Supernatural comedy, with Shabana Azmi and Goldy Notay. (2010)

TUESDAY

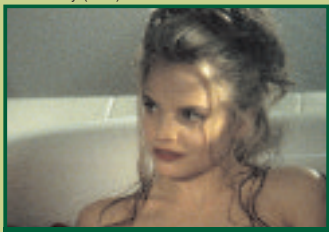
The Girl in the Park, BBC1, 11.45pm

A grieving mother withdraws from her friends and family after her three-year-old daughter disappears in Central Park. Fifteen years later she befriends an 18-year-old con-woman with a chequered past, and begins to believe the troubled teenager could be her own long-lost child. Drama, starring Sigourney Weaver, Kate Bosworth, Alessandro Nivola and David Rasche. (2007)

WEDNESDAY

American Beauty, BBC1, 11.35pm

A suburban family man has a mid-life crisis when he becomes infatuated with a friend of his teenage daughter. Struggling to cope with the unhealthy attention her father is lavishing on her friend, the girl begins a tentative relationship of her own. Meanwhile, her harassed mother is having an affair. Sam Mendes' Oscar-winning black comedy drama, starring Kevin Spacey, Annette Bening, Thora Birch, Mena Suvari and Wes Bentley. (1999)



American Beauty, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.35pm

THURSDAY

King Solomon's Mines, Channel 4, 12.10pm

A rugged soldier of fortune is hired to help a woman find her father, who is missing in the African wilderness. However, during his mission, he gets caught up in the search for a legendary treasure – and must fight for his life against cannibals, the German army and a long-standing foe. Action adventure based on H Rider Haggard's novel, with Richard Chamberlain, Sharon Stone, Herbert Lom and John Rhys-Davies. (1985)

FRIDAY

Lethal Weapon 4, Channel 5, 10pm

Mismatched LAPD detectives Riggs and Murtaugh stumble aboard a ship transporting Chinese immigrants into the US. As they try to get to the bottom of the organisation behind the smuggling, they find themselves up against a master criminal who is an expert in martial arts and heads a Chinese triad responsible for people-trafficking and forgery. Action adventure sequel, starring Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Rene Russo, Joe Pesci, Jet Li and Chris Rock. (1998)

Pick of the Week

Jungle fever grips the nation for another year

Admittedly there are plenty of celebrities we'd love to throw in the jungle, never to see a trace of again, but we'll happily settle for the next best thing – sending them Down Under into rat-ridden pits and snake-infested swamps and serving them up a three-course meal of the jungle menu's finest delicacies.

Yes, it's that time of year again when a handful of famous folk ditch their make-up, designer clobber and home comforts – and all in a bid to take the crown as king or queen of the jungle, an accolade clinched last year by actress Charlie Brooks.

Back in 2002, the powers-that-be at ITV first discussed the seemingly absurd idea of taking a handful of headline-grabbing celebrities and throwing them in to the middle of a beastie-inhabited Australian jungle. "I'll never work" cried a groaning public.

But here we are, about to embark on the 13th series of the sadistic reality favourite, which, at a time when reality TV is in overload, I'm a

Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! is head and shoulders above its peers.

As usual ITV bosses are playing their cards close to their chests and keeping us guessing as to who will front this year's final line-up of jungle guests, but with names such as Rylan Clark, Michael Le Vell and Paul Gascoigne being banded around, perhaps we ought to brace ourselves for what could be the best series yet.

Like a witchetty grub without a side helping of mayonnaise, it'd be criminal if Ant and Dec weren't at the helm plumb the depths of depravity, and so of course they'll bring us more rounds of gossip from the camp.

The duo, who started out on children's drama Byker Grove as PJ and Duncan, have risen through the ranks to become a telly phenomenon, and frankly prime-time ITV wouldn't be the same without them, given that they're at the helm of three of the channels' biggest ratings scores: I'm a Celebrity, Saturday Night Takeaway and of course Britain's Got Talent.

The boys have definitely earned the National Television Award for Best Entertainment Presenters, that they've now won 13 years running. In fact, they should probably start making room on their mantelpiece ahead of the next NTAs in January...

Dec recently reminisced about where it all started, telling Radio Times: "I think Ant and I were ambitious because of where we come from. Both of us are from working-class families on council estates in Newcastle. Growing up in the '80s, there weren't many opportunities. It was tough – how it is today economically and socially is reminiscent of those days. We were so lucky that opportunity came along in the early '90s, and we didn't let it go. That's driven us for the last 20 years."

He adds: "People often ask what the secret of our success is, and I used to put it down to just something that happened, but reflecting on it, I think it's friendship. Ours is a career built on a friendship, not a friendship built on a career."



Ant and Dec present I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!, Sunday, ITV, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan Channel 5, 7pm

We're not sure who first decided to send the Lord of the Rings star off to far-flung corners of the world to encounter weird creatures, but we'd like to shake them by the hand: it's turned out to be an oddly enjoyable experience. Now it's back from a mid-series break, and Dominic is off to Laos in Southeast Asia on a quest to find the giant huntsman spider, which is so rare that only a handful of humans have ever encountered one in the wild. And that's probably just as well, as it's also tremendously venomous. Mind you, he should be ok – after all, he faced down an ent in The Two Towers.

Ripper Street BBC1, 9pm

A few weeks ago, in the final episode of BBC Two's Peaky Blinders, we saw a character being sprung by his mates from a prison van. Clearly such behaviour was common back in the 'olden days', because a similar event is happening again, this time in Whitechapel. It's Irish dynamite expert Aiden Gavin who makes his escape – and less than a day later, he's up to his old tricks. Gavin sets an explosive device under the bed of MP Cecil Knightly, a very vocal opponent of Home Rule. Initially the police believe the attack to be politically motivated, but Reid sets about delving into Knightly's past, and uncovers evidence that suggests his murder could have been caused by a different issue...

TUESDAY

Last Tango in Halifax BBC1, 9pm

Sally Wainwright's star-strewed Bafta-winning comedy drama returns for a second series tonight, which sees septuagenarian lovers Alan and Celia, played by Derek Jacobi and Anne Reid, make a welcome return to our screens. The story picks up where the first run left off – with Alan regaining consciousness after his heart scare. Which means not tie the knot as soon as possible. Not everyone's love lives are running smoothly, however, and Caroline returns home to find John in bed with Judith. Strong acting and believable dialogue make the whole thing sparkle.

The Sound of Musicals Channel 4, 9pm

If anyone knows how to fill a theatre, it's Cameron Mackintosh. He's the legendary producer who gave us Cats, Les Miserables and The Phantom of the Opera. However, as the second episode of this eye-opening documentary series discovers, that doesn't mean that his revival of the circus spectacular Barnum is guaranteed to be a stress-free success. Meanwhile, first-time producer Amy Anzel may not have quite so dazzling a CV, but it looks like she has managed to bag a big-name director for Happy

Days: A New Musical in the form of Strictly Come Dancing's Craig Revel Horwood. Surely that should guarantee it's not, as Craig would say, a disaster?

WEDNESDAY Mystery Map ITV, 8pm

Did ITV miss a trick by not treating us to this new two-part documentary at Halloween? The programme finds Ben Shepherd and Julia Bradbury travelling across Britain, investigating mysterious incidents from ghost-sightings to mythical beasts. The first stop on their itinerary of spooky spots is York, where Ben checks into the Guy Fawkes Inn, said to be haunted by the ghost of the gunpowder plotter himself. Provided he makes it through the night, the presenter will then be travelling on to Rendlesham Forest to investigate reports of UFOs. And if you refuse to believe these stories without evidence, Julia will also be visiting Hampton Court, where it's believed a ghost has been caught on camera.



Mystery Map, Wednesday, ITV, 8pm

THURSDAY

An Adventure in Space and Time BBC2, 9pm

Unless you've been travelling the universe, possibly in a blue police box, for the past year, you can't have failed to notice that Doctor Who is celebrating its 50th anniversary on November 23rd. The BBC, which didn't always back the show during its original run, has really pushed the boat out for what is now its flagship drama, treating fans not only to a feature-length adventure on the day of the anniversary itself, but also a variety of documentaries. The latest is this offering presented by lifelong fan Matthew Sweet, who examines the show's appeal while offering insights into how it's influenced musicians, designers and artists. Mark Ravenhill, Caitlin Moran, Kevin Livingstone and various actors who've played the Time Lord offer their opinions too.

FRIDAY

Me, You and Doctor Who: A Culture Show Special BBC2, 9.30pm

Unless you've been travelling the universe, possibly in a blue police box, for the past year, you can't have failed to notice that Doctor Who is celebrating its 50th anniversary on November 23rd. The BBC, which didn't always back the show during its original run, has really pushed the boat out for what is now its flagship drama, treating fans not only to a feature-length adventure on the day of the anniversary itself, but also a variety of documentaries. The latest is this offering presented by lifelong fan Matthew Sweet, who examines the show's appeal while offering insights into how it's influenced musicians, designers and artists. Mark Ravenhill, Caitlin Moran, Kevin Livingstone and various actors who've played the Time Lord offer their opinions too.



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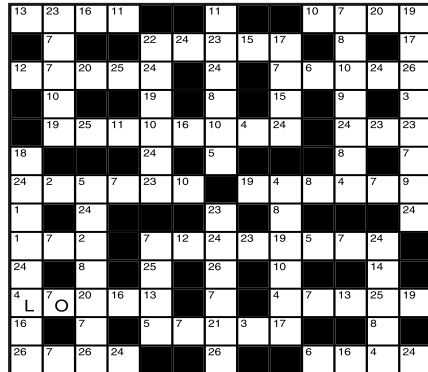
Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.247

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
W	H	V	L	G	C	T	Z	N	M	B	S	O
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
U	P	E	J	A	D	I	R	Y	F	Q	K	X

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

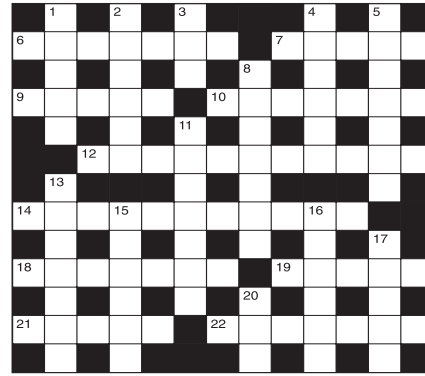
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Fired with real reform and no exaggeration (7)
7. Play with spirit on the street (5)
9. Way the French follow an animal home (5)
10. Change course when the vessel's caught in the swell (4,3)
12. There may be many calls on it to change the management (11)
14. Transporting teams, but not impartially apparently (6,5)
18. Ponders about how to react (7)
19. To sack, or to fire (5)
21. Sleep soundly (5)
22. Main pastime of many (7)

Down

1. My goodness! I type wrongly (5)
2. Hue and cry to begin with (6)
3. Gently knock over the kitchen sink (3)
4. Sing to get a drink (6)
5. Reports from the front? (7)
8. It's a bloomer if such a change is made (7)
11. Producing some scaffolding (7)
13. How two halves unite (4,3)
15. Little devil with the skill to communicate (6)
16. In a bad way (6)
17. A growing swindle (5)
20. Second thoughts about a dance step (3)



Quick Clues:

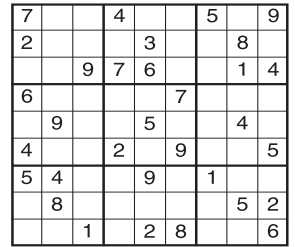
Across

6. Protection (7)
7. Sham (5)
9. Lukewarm (5)
10. Child's room (7)
12. Slow down (6,5)
14. Moulded paper pulp (6-5)
18. Stupid (7)
19. Yet (5)
21. Sky-blue (5)
22. Contrary (7)

Down

1. Crowbar (5)
2. Edit (6)
3. Perform (3)
4. Idle talk (6)
5. Dispute (7)
8. Burial procession (7)
11. Stream (7)
13. To upset (7)
15. Disregard (6)
16. Loathing (6)
17. Near (5)
20. Uneven (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	2	6	3	4	1	9	5	8
8	9	5	6	7	2	3	4	1
4	3	1	9	5	8	6	2	7
3	8	4	1	2	5	7	9	6
9	5	2	7	6	3	1	8	4
6	1	7	4	8	9	5	3	2
5	4	9	2	1	6	8	7	3
1	7	8	5	3	4	2	6	9
2	6	3	8	9	7	4	1	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Traffic jam; 7 Ideal; 8 Uniform; 10 Currencies; 11 Tilt; 13 Reduce; 15 Pass on; 17 Knit; 18 Entrance; 21 Satiety; 22 Exile; 23 Dramatists. Down: 1 Their; 2 Alliance; 3 Founts; 4 Clip; 5 Agonies; 6 Disc brakes; 9 Malingering; 12 Fairness; 14 Drifter; 15 Intent; 19 Nails; 20 Palm. QUICK - Across: 1 Department; 7 Trial; 8 Maligns; 10 Entailed; 11 Tear; 13 Debate; 15 Fasten; 17 Nazi; 18 Sentient; 21 Earnest; 22 Ensure; 23 Restlessly. Down: 1 Drift; 2 Palliate; 3 Romped; 4 Male; 5 Neglect; 6 Attendance; 9 Strengthen; 12 Vastness; 14 Bizarre; 16 Settle; 19 Essay; 20 Bent.



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Simon B

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO
HOME BUYING AND LETTING



Semi-detached near amenities

THIS particularly well-presented semi-detached property, left, provides spacious accommodation is situated in a popular residential area conveniently close to amenities including shops, schools and public transport services.

The property in Eve Lane, Upper Gornal, is within two miles of Sedgley centre. On the market for £141,995, this centrally heated and double glazed home has been well-maintained throughout and must be seen to be appreciated.

The family size property benefits from a range of noteworthy features including an en suite shower room to the master bedroom, spacious loft conversion/bedroom, a useful study area off the landing, garage and a pleasant garden to the rear.

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BURTON ROAD UPPER GORNAL

- Large detached family home over 3 levels • Four bedrooms
- Lounge, sitting room, dining area • Fitted kitchen • Stylish bathroom
- Single off road parking • Central heating • Double glazing
- Possible business premises • No upward chain. Energy Rating: E

£179,950



BROWNSWALL ROAD SEDGLEY

- Substantial semi-detached family residence • Four bedrooms
- Two reception rooms • Kitchen • Lean to/stores room
- 22ft Master bedrooms • 20ft Garage • Great potential
- No upward chain • Popular location. Energy Rating: D

£169,950



FELLOWS AVENUE WALL HEATH

- Semi-detached home with three bedrooms • Two reception rooms
- Kitchen • Central heating • Double glazing • Garage
- Off road parking • Family size rear garden • No upward chain
- Requires some modernisation. Energy Rating: D

£169,950



NORTHWAY SEDGLEY

- An extremely stylish and spacious detached family home
- Five bedrooms • Spacious 'T' shaped lounge diner plus dining room
- Fitted breakfast kitchen • First floor bathroom, downstairs shower room
- Private rear garden with timber sun house and Jacuzzi hot tub
- 27ft Garage • Viewing recommended. Energy Rating: D

Reduced to £234,950



EVE LANE UPPER GORNAL

- Extremely well presented semi-detached family residence
- Three double bedrooms • Two reception rooms • Bathroom
- Ensuite shower room • Useful study area • Central heating
- Double glazing • MUST BE SEEN. Energy Rating: D

Reduced to £141,995



PADARN CLOSE NORTHWAY

- Surprisingly spacious mid-town house with three bedrooms
- Extremely well presented family size home • Lounge
- Stylish dining kitchen • Downstairs cloak • Stylish bathroom
- Central heating • Double glazing • Allocated parking. Energy Rating: C

Reduced to £120,000



NORTHWAY SEDGLEY

- An immaculate dornier bungalow with three/four bedrooms
- Exceptional order throughout with spacious accommodation
- 'T' shaped living room plus sitting room/playroom/possible bed 4
- Extremely impressive dining kitchen with integrated appliances
- Stylish family bathroom plus ensuite • Garage. Energy Rating: D

£195,000



COLERIDGE RISE THE STRAITS

- A delightful semi-detached family home with three bedrooms
- 23ft Lounge diner plus double glazed conservatory to the rear
- Fitted kitchen plus utility • Downstairs cloak • Parking plus garage
- Central heating • Double glazing. Energy Rating: D

£169,950



WALLOWOOD THE STRAITS

- Spacious semi-detached home well presented throughout
- Three bedrooms • Lounge, dining room, office, kitchen, laundrette
- Stylish bathroom • Low maintenance rear garden • Central heating
- Double glazing • Off road parking. Energy Rating: D

£149,995



BOSWORTH CLOSE WOODSETTON

- Detached family residence • Extremely well presented throughout
- Four bedrooms • 21ft Living room • Ground floor cloak room
- Central heating • Double glazing • Garage • Off road parking
- Popular location • VIEWING RECOMMENDED. Energy Rating: D

£199,950



ROPER WAY WOODSETTON

- Townhouse property with two bedrooms • Lounge • Dining kitchen
- Hot room • Central heating • Double glazing • Pleasant rear garden
- Off road parking for 2 vehicles • No upward chain. Energy Rating: C

£119,950



TUDOR ROAD UPPER GORNAL

- Semi-detached home on corner position • Three bedrooms
- Lounge • Dining kitchen • Downstairs cloak • Bathroom
- Central heating • Front, side and rear gardens • Parking for 2 vehicles
- Garage • VIEWING RECOMMENDED. Energy Rating: D

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199,950



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Wood Street

149,950



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Maitland Road

139,950



A spacious family home benefiting No Upward Chain, comprises hall through lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom, garage. Energy rating C.

Woodall Grange

128,995



A two bedroomed home with with spacious lounge/dining room with french doors to the garden, modern kitchen, spacious master bedroom.

Batmanshill Road

109,950



A modern two bedroom mid terrace property comprising: lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, bathroom and downstairs WC. off road parking. Energy rating C.

Wheatsheaf Road

99,950



A mid terrace benefits from no upward chain comprises lounge, kitchen diner, three bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, garden to the rear. Energy rating TBC.

Langstone Road

99,950



A 2 BEDROOM SEMI with NO UPWARD CHAIN, having lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, OFF ROAD PARKING. Energy rating E.

Greenway Gardens

99,750



A three bedroom property set in a cul-de-sac location comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, cloakroom, off road parking. Energy rating C.

Rollason Road

92,000



A well presented traditional mid terrace briefly comprising two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden. Energy rating tbc.

Blackacre Road

89,950



A two bedroom (formerly 3 bedrooms) currently adapted for disabled use, benefits lounge, kitchen/diner, Conservatory, shower room. Energy rating TBC.

Haig Road

72,500



A three bedroom mid terrace having lounge, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, double glazing and central heating, off road parking . Energy rating C.

Cinder Bank

69,950



A two bedroom end terrace briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, shower room, No upward chain. Energy rating F.

Gill Street

64,995



In need of modernisation a three bedroom mid terrace having two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden. No Upward Chain. Energy rating F.

Public Notice



PUBLIC NOTICE - 20 Nelson Road, Dudley, DY1 2AG. We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £71,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Public Notice



Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £45,950. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property 58 St Johns Road, Tipton, Dy4 9QE should contact Connells on 01384 214770 before exchange of contracts.

Public Notice



202 dudley road rowley regis B65 8LB. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £41,000 on the above property Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agents before exchange of contracts takes place.

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£575pcm



Dudley
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- Fully fitted kitchen
- Bathroom
- Rear garden
- Off road parking
- DG & GCH
- No smokers
- No pets
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255
- Energy Rating - TBC

£575pcm



Tipton
Monins Avenue

- Two bed semi
- Lounge with gas fire
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- CH
- ORP
- Energy Rating - D
- Available immediately
- Tipton office

£525pcm



Dudley
Beaumaris Close

- Two bed semi
- Unfurnished
- CH & DG
- Fully fitted kitchen with cooker
- Conservatory
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Rear garden
- Energy Rating - D
- Tipton office

£480pcm



Sedgley
North One Mews

- Two bed first floor apartment
- GCH
- DG
- Kitchen with fitted oven



Sedgley
North One Mews

- Master bedroom with fitted wardrobes
- En suite shower room
- Allocated car parking space
- Energy Rating - B

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Tipton
Scott Street

- Two bed ground floor apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Master bedroom with en-suite



Tipton
Scott Street

- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating - TBC
- Tipton office
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£475pcm



Tipton
Jonah Drive

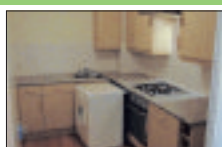
- One bed ground floor flat
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- One bed ground floor flat
- Bathroom with shower
- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating - D
- Tipton office

£425pcm



Wolverhampton
Market Square

- First floor two bed apartment
- Unfurnished
- Fitted kitchen
- Economy seven heating throughout



Wolverhampton
Market Square

- Bathroom with shower
- Energy Rating - D
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£425pcm



Tipton
Weston Drive

- Three bed detached home
- Extended kitchen
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Conservatory
- ORP
- Rear garden
- Available immediately
- Energy Rating - D

£625pcm



New Invention
Squires Grove

- Two bed ground floor apartment
- Modern fitted kitchen with appliances
- One en-suite
- Two double bedrooms
- Fully double glazed and central heated
- Energy Rating - D

£525pcm



Hagley
Millpool Close

- Two bed ground floor apartment
- Kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Garage and parking space
- Energy Rating - D
- Great Bridge office
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Wednesbury
Old College Drive

- Two bed first floor apartment
- Lounge with doors onto Juliet balcony
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath & shower
- Communal gardens
- Allocated parking
- Energy Rating - C

£525pcm



Wolverhampton
Brindley Avenue

- Two bed semi
- Fitted kitchen
- Double glazed conservatory
- DG and GCH
- ORP
- Bathroom with electric shower
- Enclosed rear garden
- Energy Rating - D

£525pcm



Wednesbury
Holyhead Road

- Two bed ground floor apartment
- Unfurnished
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Spacious master bedroom
- Ensuite facilities including shower
- Main bathroom with shower
- Energy Rating - TBC
- Tipton office

£500pcm



Rowley Regis
Sheepfold Close

- Three bed semi
- Unfurnished
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Lounge
- Bathroom with shower
- Rear garden
- Energy Rating - D
- Tipton office

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- CH & DG
- Rear Garden
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- Available immediately
- Call 01902 686868

£495pcm



Bilston
Horace Street

- Two bed mid terrace home
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Fully fitted kitchen
- CH & DG
- Rear Garden
- Energy Rating - C
- Available immediately
- Call 01902 686868

£495pcm



Tipton
Ferguson Drive

- Two bed mid terrace
- Double detached
- Lounge with patio doors
- Kitchen with appliances
- Private rear garden
- ORP
- Energy Rating - C

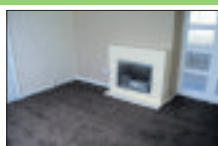
£495pcm



Dudley
Sycamore Green

- Three bed semi
- Gas central heated
- Bathroom with separate WC
- Gardens to front and rear
- Energy Rating - E
- Tipton office
- Available immediately

£495pcm



Bilston
Attlee Crescent

- Three bed semi
- Unfurnished
- Fully fitted kitchen with cooker
- GCH
- Double glazing
- ORP
- Energy Rating - C
- Available immediately
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£490pcm



Brierley Hill
Commonside

- Two bed detached home
- Central heated accommodation
- Bathroom with shower
- Garden
- Available immediately
- Energy Rating - F
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£450pcm



Sedgley
Bilston Street

- Spacious one bed first floor maisonette
- Luxurious bathroom with shower
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Spacious lounge
- ORP
- Parking available
- Energy Rating - G
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£350pcm



Tipton
Oak Close

- One bed ground floor flat
- Private residential area
- Kitchen with appliances
- Hall & lounge
- Bathroom with shower
- Energy Rating - D
- Viewing recommended

£350pcm



Great Bridge
Market Place

- Spacious one bed flat
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Fitted bathroom
- Close to motorway network



Great Bridge
Market Place

- Gas central heated
- Energy Rating - E
- Tipton office
- Available immediately

£350pcm



Coseley
Roseville Court

- Attractive SF flat
- Two bedrooms
- Kitchen with appliances
- Spacious living room
- Bathroom with shower
- Convenient to Coseley village
- Energy Rating - E

£350pcm



Tipton
Birch Coppice Gardens

- One bed first floor maisonette
- Freshly decorated throughout
- Fitted kitchen with cooker
- Lounge
- UPVC double glazing
- Bathroom with bath and electric shower
- Energy Rating - F

£325pcm



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SWINSCOES

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SEDGLEY Gospel Ead Road - An excellent size DETACHED home - Sought after Gospel first address - Walking distance to Sedgley village - Flexible living space - Open plan and recently fitted kitchen - Utility room, new remodelling room - FOUR bedrooms, two en-suites - Driveway parking for several cars - Part garage and private rear garden - This is an ideal family home - EPC Rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £209,990	SEDGLEY Tipson Road - An excellent size family home - In walking distance to Sedgley - Large lounge & dining room - Good size kitchen - FOUR bedrooms - Family size rear garden - Garage & off road parking - EPC Rating - E OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £239,990	COSELEY Summerhill Road - A DETACHED bungalow - Enhanced and upgraded throughout - Breakfast Kitchen - Large Conservatory - Lounge & Dining Room - One bedroom (can be converted back into a two bedroom) - Delightful & landscaped gardens - Secure parking through electronic gates - EPC Rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £220,990	SEDGLEY Ellymore Road - A most impressive detached residence. - In walking distance to Sedgley Village - Spacious accommodation - Two reception rooms - Breakfast kitchen - Four double bedrooms - No Upward Chain - Viewing essential - EPC Rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £210,990	SEDGLEY Viewfield Crescent - A beautifully presented bungalow - Contemporary accommodation - Large lounge with dining area - Modern kitchen - Two DOUBLE bedrooms - Bedroom with white suite - Lower double glazed windows - Block paved driveway - Good size rear garden - NO UPWARD CHAIN - EPC Rating - C OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £200,990	LOWER GORNAL Ruskin Avenue - A Spacious Detached Bungalow - Positioned on a substantial plot - Extended to the side - Lounge & Dining Room/Dining Room - Two Double Bedrooms - Bathroom & Separate w.c. - Garage & Rear Garden - Off Road parking to the front - EPC Rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £180,990
COSELEY Bridgeview Drive - A FOUR bedroom detached - Extended & enhanced - Dining & breakfast kitchen - Contemporary bathroom - Utility room & guest w.c. - Garage & off road parking - NO UPWARD CHAIN - EPC Rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £184,990	COSELEY Clifton Street - A traditional detached home - Open plan lounge/dining room - Modern kitchen - Three good size bedrooms - An excellent size bathroom - Rear garden & garage - Off road parking for 2/3 cars - An ideal family home - EPC Rating - E OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £171,990	LOWER GORNAL Wintash Close - A good size DETACHED property - In an enviable cul-de-sac location - An open plan lounge and dining kitchen - THREE bedrooms, en-suite shower room - Family bathroom - UPVC double glazed entrance - Driveway with off road parking - A good size rear garden and garage - An ideal family home - EPC Rating - C OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £168,990	DUDLEY Attingham Drive - A Modern TOWN-HOUSE - Set over three storeys - Contemporary & spacious - Open plan Lounge & Dining Room - FOUR double bedrooms - Two En-suites & family bathroom - Allocated parking for 2/3 cars - Rear garden set over 2 acres - EPC Rating - B OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £160,990	SEDGLEY Dumblebury Avenue - An excellent size semi-detached property - Bought after Brimley Road Estate - Open plan Lounge & Dining Room - Kitchen & large Garage - Three bedrooms - Gas central heating - An ideal family home - EPC Rating - TBC OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £157,990	LANESFIELD Lane Road - Immaculately presented TWO bed detached bungalow - Enhanced throughout - Open plan lounge/dining room - Modern kitchen & Bathroom - Low maintenance garden - Off road parking - EPC Rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £148,990
WEST BROMWICH York Crescent - A Modern style semi-detached property - Immaculately presented accommodation - Kitchen with integrated appliances - Guest bedroom - Lounge - Three bedrooms - En-suite to Master - Family bathroom with white suite - Garage & driveway parking - NO UPWARD CHAIN - EPC Rating - C OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £149,990	UPPER GORNAL Rolley Drive - SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED - A modern three bed and terrace house - Built 5 years ago, NHBC warranty - Lounge, open plan dining kitchen - Downstairs cloakroom - En-suite to master bedroom - Driveway parking - EPC Rating - C OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £144,990	SEDGLEY Crown Close - A beautifully presented and property - Situated in walking distance to Sedgley - Garage & off road parking - An excellent size lounge - Recently fitted modern kitchen - Three bedrooms and bathroom - Rear garden - EPC Rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £144,490	COSELEY Cliffe Street - A modern detached bungalow - Private access road off Clifton St - Well maintained accommodation - Two bedrooms & Wet Room - Lounge and conservatory - Low maintenance garden - EPC Rating - TBC OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £142,590	COSELEY Rosalind Avenue - A traditional style semi-detached - On the popular Brimford Estate - Lounge & Dining Room - Modern breakfast kitchen - Three bedrooms - Garage and drive - Rear garden - NO UPWARD CHAIN - EPC Rating - D PRICE £130,990	UPPER GORNAL Valley Road - A Modern semi detached property - Extended accommodation - Lounge, Dining Kitchen - Conservatory, Utility room - Three bedrooms - En-suite & bathroom - Garage and drive - An ideal first time buy - EPC Rating - C OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £133,590
COSELEY Keads Drive - A Modern semi-detached property - Offering spacious accommodation - Lounge and through dining room - Three bedrooms & Bathroom - Private rear garden with sunny aspect - Driveway and garage - An ideal first time buy - EPC Rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,990	COSELEY Church Road - A Traditional terrace property - Deceptively spacious - An open plan modern dining kitchen - Lounge & Sitting Room - Two good size bedrooms - Left Room (being used as a bedroom) - Good size rear garden - Driveway with parking for 2 cars - EPC Rating - E OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £127,590	SEDGLEY Tipton Street - A traditional terrace property - In walking distance into Sedgley Centre - Dining room, Lounge - Kitchen & Utility room - THREE bedrooms - Good size rear garden - An ideal first time buy - NO UPWARD CHAIN - EPC Rating - E OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £123,990	COSELEY The Castings - Modern and of town house style property - Well maintained and contemporary - An open plan style breakfast kitchen - Conservatory & downstairs w.c. - Two good size bedrooms - Good size rear garden - Stated on a larger corner plot - Good size rear garden - Two allocated parking spaces - An ideal starter home - NO UPWARD CHAIN - EPC Rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £123,590	COSELEY Chad Road - A GOOD SIZE semi-detached home - Excellent location for good local schools - Lounge & open plan dining kitchen - Three bedrooms - Garage & Driveway parking - Ideal for first time buyers - Viewing highly recommended - EPC Rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,990	SEDGLEY Castle Street - A DECEPTIVELY spacious terrace - In walking distance to Sedgley Village - Upgraded and refurbished throughout - Three good size bedrooms - Lounge & Dining Room - Kitchen Extension - An ideal first time buy - EPC Rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £113,990
WIDCOTESSETON Wren Street - A well presented and terrace - Ample off road parking - Lounge and dining kitchen - TWO bedrooms - Modern bathroom - Pleasant & well maintained garden - NO UPWARD CHAIN - EPC Rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £109,990	UPPER GORNAL Terrace Lane - A well presented semi-detached - Convenient location for Gornal & Sedgley - Lounge & dining room - Three bedrooms - An ideal first time buy - NO UPWARD CHAIN - EPC Rating - C OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £100,990	COSELEY Rainbow Street - A semi detached bungalow - Ideal buy-to-let investment - Current rental income being £5,825 p.a. - Lounge & gallery kitchen - Two bedrooms - Recently installed central heating - Recently re-wired & re-plastered - NO UPWARD CHAIN - EPC rating - D OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £98,090	PARKHOUSE GARDENS, LOWER Park Road - A BRAND NEW development 5 Bungalows remaining - High standard and contemporary - OPEN PLAN style living space - Luxury breakfast kitchen - ALLOCATED PARKING - Rear garden with sunny aspect - Ideal for independent individuals - EPC Rating - B £89,990	UPPER GORNAL Alderwood Rise - A unique town house style property - In a quiet cul-de-sac location - Classically deceptively spacious - Halfway, dining kitchen and lounge - Two double bedrooms & bathroom - A good size rear garden (corner plot) - In need of cosmetic updating - An ideal buy-to-let or first time buy - EPC Rating - D £81,990	ETTINGSHALL PARK Dovecote Road - A WELL presented Maisonette - In a popular residential location - TWO bedrooms - Kitchen & Lounge - An ideal first time buy or investment - Viewing is highly recommended - EPC Rating - E OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £75,990

K. Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION 3rd DECEMBER 2013



49 LICHFIELD ROAD, WEDNESFIELD

Well located Shop Unit and Living Accommodation. Main Shop, Staff Room, W.C. Self-contained First Floor Three Bed Flat, Spacious recently fitted Kitchen and Bathroom, Balcony, Garage. EPC: Shop E, Flat G.

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 15th & 16th
NOVEMBER @ 9.30 a.m.**

Guide: £118,000 / £123,000



3 BEECHWOOD DRIVE, WIGHTWICK

Cul-de-sac position within prime residential location - a well proportioned Bungalow - would now benefit from up-grade - Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Study, Utility facility off, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, generous Loft space, Garage, lovely Rear Garden. EPC: TBA

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 15th & 16th
NOVEMBER @ 12.30 p.m.**

Guide: £175,000 / £185,000



180 WOLVERHAMPTON STREET, BILSTON

Large spacious Victorian End Terrace, corner position, immaculately presented. Hall, Two Reception, Sun Lounge, newly fitted luxury Kitchen and Bathroom, Two Double Bedrooms, Shower Room, spacious Loft area, large rear Garden. EPC: E

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 15th & 16th
NOVEMBER @ 9.45 a.m.**

Guide: £80,000 / £95,000



11 PEAR TREE LANE, WEDNESFIELD

Conveniently located and accessible to shops and schools - a Detached House offering Porch, Hall, Through Lounge / Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, 70ft. Rear Garden. EPC: TBA

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 15th & 16th
NOVEMBER @ 11.45 a.m.**

Guide: £110,000 / £115,000



298 NEWHAMPTON ROAD WEST, WOLVERHAMPTON

Large Victorian House with big rooms. Hall, Two Reception, large Kitchen, Rear Hall, Shower Room, Three Bedrooms & Box Room, spacious Bathroom. Gated vehicular access and off-road Parking, generous grounds. Space to develop (STPP). EPC: TBA

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 15th & 16th
NOVEMBER @ 10.30 a.m.**

Guide: £125,000 / £130,000



25 MILFORD ROAD, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Investment - Currently producing £5,400 p.a.x. Large Semi in good location, Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Laundry, Three Bedrooms, white Bathroom, long Garden. EPC: F

**VIEWING: SATURDAY 16th NOVEMBER
@ 1.30 p.m.**

Guide: £74,000 / £79,000



ADDERLEY LODGE, 220 PENN ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

An impressive double fronted detached Victorian Residence offering spacious. Accommodation, fine Hall, W.C., Three Reception, large Kitchen, Utility, Pantry, Sun Lounge, Cellar, Four Bedrooms, Two Bath Shower, Double Garage, large Work Shop, lovely grounds. EPC: TBA

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 15th & 16th
NOVEMBER @ 11.30 a.m.**

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO VEHICULAR ACCESS AT THE
TIME OF VIEWING - PARK IN COALWAY AVENUE / COALWAY ROAD
Guide: £290,000 / £310,000**



THE OLD POST OFFICE, 6 THE SQUARE, IRONBRIDGE

An impressive three-storey building with outlook to the world renowned Iron Bridge. Post Office Shop area, Cellar, Lounge, Dining Room, large Kitchen, Utility Four large Bedrooms and Bathroom. Self contained unit offering Sitting Room, Kitchen, Shower Room, Patio Garden. EPC: TBA

**VIEWING: FRIDAY, SATURDAY & TUESDAY,
15th, 16th & 19th NOVEMBER
@ 9.45 a.m.**

Guide: £230,000 / £240,000



6 WHARF STREET, HORSELEY FIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON

A large Semi, Foregarden, off-road Parking, Large Hall, W.C., Lounge, big Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas C.H. EPC: TBA

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 15th & 16th
NOVEMBER @ 10.45 a.m.**

Guide: £78,000 / £83,000



44 GROSVENOR STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

A partially improved Semi, Three smart Bedrooms, excellent Loft space, New Bathroom and Kitchen, Lounge and extended Dining Room, Garage, Store, Rear Garden. EPC: TBA

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 15th & 16th
NOVEMBER @ 11.45 a.m.**

Guide: £54,000 / £59,000



14 CLAYTON CLOSE, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Convenient cul-de-sac location, UPVC & CH., Foregarden, Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility area, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, long Rear Garden. EPC: TBA

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 15th & 16th
NOVEMBER @ 12.45 p.m.**

Guide: £64,000 / £69,000



1 BROWN STREET, BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON

Investment currently producing £7,020 pax Well situated End Terraced., Two Reception, Kitchen, large Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, long garden. EPC: TBA

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 15th & 16th
NOVEMBER @ 12.30 p.m.**

Guide: £60,000 / £65,000

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KINGSWINFORD**818 High Street****01384 401777****BRIERLEY HILL****84-86 High Street****01384 265265****STOURBRIDGE****85 High Street****01384 395555****6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS****LOWER GORNAL**

Ladbrook Grove, Straits



An ENLARGED, imposing & tremendously enhanced, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family residence in favoured/convenient neighbourhood. Superb accommodation includes large entrance hall (effective a second reception room), magnificent through lounge, outstanding enlarged & comprehensively refitted 23'4" dining kitchen with double french doors out to garden, an extensive range of units & many integrated appliances including a range. Gallery landing, three double bedrooms, stylish reappointed bathroom with white suite. Short garage. Tremendous expertly tended gardens. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £249,950

KINGSWINFORD

Wolverhampton Road



A rare opportunity to purchase a VERY SUBSTANTIAL AND DISTINCTIVE, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME within this highly sought after address, having been BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED throughout to offer: large reception hall, well proportioned lounge with multi fuel burner, separate formal dining room, enlarged and refitted kitchen, THREE EXCELLENT BEDROOMS, luxury re-appointed bathroom with separate shower and SUPERB ATTIC (accessed via stairs off landing); GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With GENEROUS DRIVEWAY, ENCLOSED SIDE PARKING with gated access, GARAGE/STORE, WORKSHOP AND LARGE ATTRACTIVE REAR GARDEN enjoying a DELIGHT OPEN REAR ASPECT. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£229,950

KINGSWINFORD

Coniston Drive

Enjoying a superb end/corner and cul-de-sac position within the sought after Valley Fields development, this DELIGHTFUL MODERN SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW offers a GENEROUS LAYOUT OF ACCOMMODATION which requires some updating/improvement, with GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: reception hall, large lounge, kitchen, inner hall, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS and bathroom. Set beyond the low maintenance front garden with LONG FRONT/SIDE DRIVEWAY to DETACHED GARAGE and to the rear offering a LARGE GARDEN. EPC Rating: D. KINGSWINFORD 01384 401777

£154,950

KINGSWINFORD

Keyes Drive



A SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED AND EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED, MODERN, DETACHED FAMILY HOME, enjoying a superb cul de sac position upon highly respected Charterfields and offering now INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS AND BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, large attractive lounge, delightful conservatory extension, expensively improved luxury kitchen with appliances and dining room area off, THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS and re-appointed shower room. Lawned fore garden, LONG BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY with PARTITIONED GARAGE (Split into two sections) and an ATTRACTIVELY SECLUDED REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£209,950

COSELEY

Birmingham New Road

A COMPREHENSIVELY REFURBISHED, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed semi detached of character that has been tremendously modernised & upgraded in recent months to an exemplary specification. Accommodation provides glazed porch, imposing reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge with bay, dining room with bay, refitted kitchen, three generous bedrooms, reappointed bathroom, garage & further store. Block paved driveway/ parking to front, neat rear garden with further brick store. Mining search available. EPC Rating: TBA SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

BROCKMOOR

Fox Foot Drive

This modern style, Double Glazed (vast majority of units), Gas Centrally Heated, TWO BEDROOM Semi- Detached Home is situated in a popular residential location, and may particularly appeal to FIRST TIME BUYERS. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS, bathroom, Driveway and Rear Garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£109,950

SEDGLEY

Beech Close

This traditional, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached is situated in a quiet cul de sac and may be of particular interest to first time buyers or young families alike. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen with fine range of units, three good bedrooms, shower, driveway & side/rear gardens. EPC Rating: T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

LOWER GORNAL

Central Drive

A conscientiously maintained, modernised & significantly improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached dormer bungalow in small gated secure development constructed circa 2003. The quite exceptional accommodation includes reception hall, cloak cupboards, lounge with bay (& double french doors to garden), separate dining room, kitchen with a fine range of integrated units & laundry section, bathroom & fourth bedroom (alternative study). To the first floor are three bedrooms (two with wardrobes & principal bedroom with shower room en suite), substantial double garage with automated door, extensive block paved parking. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £104,950

BRIERLEY HILL

Springfield Road

This well presented, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, THREE BEDROOM mid townhouse is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and may particularly appeal to both FIRST TIME BUYERS and young families alike. The surprisingly spacious property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Three Good Bedrooms, Bathroom with white suite and a pleasant Rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£89,950

QUARRY BANK

Mount Pleasant

This Victorian style, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, TWO BEDROOM home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and may be of particular interest to FIRST TIME BUYERS. The well presented property briefly comprises: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, two First Floor Double Bedrooms, Rear Courtyard Garden with potential Off Road Parking (Subject to Relevant Planning). EPC Rating F. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£79,950

PENSNETT

Chapel Street

A WELL PRESENTED 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE with DRIVE/PARKING, within a popular location, enjoying a private rear aspect, offering a GOOD SIZED layout, comprising: Reception Hall, spacious lounge, full width dining kitchen, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS, shower room and GAS CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM. DRIVEWAY to the fore and a landscaped rear garden with store. EPC Rating: TBA. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£79,950

SWINDON

The Holloway

A DELIGHTFUL AND SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME within a sought after village location with a VERY LARGE REAR GARDEN, ideal for children. The accommodation is IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS, WELL PRESENTED, includes GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and offers: reception hall, ground floor w.c., a large attractive lounge, large extended 18' second sitting room with dining area, study/ garden room, extended 18' kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS (bedrooms one and two with wardrobes) and luxury refitted shower room. Front garden, BROAD DRIVEWAY, CARPORT, GARAGE and the EXTENSIVE ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT 'SUNNY' REAR GARDENS with pleasant views and seclusion. EPC Rating E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£234,950

SEDGLEY

Eden Gardens (Off Gorge Road)

A distinctive, highly individual & particularly spacious, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached dormer bungalow in small gated secure development constructed circa 2003. The quite exceptional accommodation includes reception hall, cloak cupboards, lounge with bay (& double french doors to garden), separate dining room, kitchen with a fine range of integrated units & laundry section, bathroom & fourth bedroom (alternative study). To the first floor are three bedrooms (two with wardrobes & principal bedroom with shower room en suite), substantial double garage with automated door, extensive block paved parking. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region £225,000

KINGSWINFORD

£5,000 REDUCTION

Ambrose Crescent

Exceptionally well placed within the small exclusive cul-de-sac upon highly regarded 'Charterfields', this SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED & ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED, MODERN LINK-DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS accommodation including TWO SEPARATE RECEPTION ROOMS and comprising: Reception Hall, ground floor Guests Cloakroom/W.C., incredibly spacious Lounge, separate formal Dining Room, fitted Kitchen with appliances, THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS (all 'A-rated' fitted Bathroom with white 'Imperial' suite, GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Attractive fore garden, LARGE TARMAC DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£199,950

DUDLEY

Lightwood Road

An EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS, highly individual, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached constructed for present vendors' own occupation & comprising imposing reception hall, fitted cloakroom, storage cupboards, dining room with bay, 17'10" lounge with 'living flame' feature gas fire & patio doors through to a brick/uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, well equipped breakfast kitchen, FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with fitted units & shower room en suite), bathroom, garage, extensive block paved fore garden & 13th width side area with potential, secluded sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £199,950

KINGSWINFORD

£2,550 REDUCTION

Blossomfield Close

Occupying an excellent corner position within this very pleasant address upon Blandford Mere, this SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED MODERN LINK DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers ENLARGED AND BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, ground floor W.C., superb extended lounge with dining/sitting area off, attractively fitted kitchen, THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS and refitted bathroom with Heritage suite. With low maintenance fore garden, DRIVEWAY with gated access to an ENCLOSED DRIVEWAY. GARAGE and enjoying a BROAD, ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£189,950

PENSNETT

4 BEDROOMS

Tansey Green Road

A HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL AND SUBSTANTIAL, 'PERIOD' DETACHED FAMILY HOME, offering EXTREMELY GENEROUS accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, PART DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, inner hall, large lounge, separate sitting room/dining room, attractively refitted dining kitchen, large utility room, ground floor w.c., FOUR GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS and bathroom. Having LARGE TARMAC DRIVEWAY, DOUBLE GARAGE and pleasant patio / lawned rear garden. EPC Rating F. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£189,950

NETHERTON

Yew Tree Hills

Tucked away within a private service road, this REALLY QUITE SURPRISING AND RATHER SPACIOUS, TRADITIONALLY STYLED, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM, DETACHED BUNGALOW RESIDENCE affords a layout with both GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND MAJORITY DOUBLE GLAZING and has been conscientiously maintained by the present owner, and is well worthy of a personal internal inspection to express full appreciation. The accommodation briefly comprises: entrance porch, reception hallway, sitting room, breakfast kitchen, utility, two double bedrooms, bathroom, driveway approach to the larger than average garage, and well tended gardens/step-up three sides. EPC Rating F. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£189,000

DUDLEY

Dibdale Road West

A meticulously maintained, tremendously enhanced, freehold, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated Kendrick built double fronted detached in favoured/now well established neighbourhood. Superb accommodation includes L-shape reception hall, store, fitted cloakroom with white suite, upgraded through dining kitchen with a fine range of 'light beech' effect units, various integrated appliances & double french doors out to the garden. Through living room with patio doors through to a magnificent uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY (13' x 12'4"), three bedrooms (principal bedroom with recently reappointed shower room en suite), bathroom, lengthy driveway, substantial brick garage, delightfully secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £185,950

SEDGLEY

Longmeadow Drive, Northway

RARE OPPORTUNITY! A freehold, gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed detached bungalow requiring some sympathetic updating in favoured district where bungalows are only rarely made available for sale. Accommodation provides reception hall, cloak cupboard, two double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, lounge, dining room, garden room, upgraded kitchen, carport, garage, gardens arranged for 'minimum' maintenance. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £179,950

DUDLEY

Fairview Road

A quite exceptional, tremendously ENLARGED & EXTENDED, Edwardian semi detached of character occupying a fine corner plot with EXTENSIVE PARKING. The uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated (combi boiler) accommodation includes: reception hall, 20' sitting room with bay, separate dining room, stunning 22' breakfast kitchen with a magnificent range of units & many integrated appliances, fitted cloakroom, 31' double glazed conservatory, FOUR BEDROOMS, tiled shower room (former bathroom). Many period features. Large garage, block paved parking, delightful sheltered garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £179,950

STOURBRIDGE / PEDMORE

Walker Avenue

This MUCH IMPROVED AND WELL PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, MUCKLOW SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME presents a layout which includes GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, to briefly comprise: porch, hall, study, guests cloakroom, pleasant sitting room, separate dining room, enlarged kitchen, three first floor bedrooms and bathroom. Fore garden with adjoining double width drive and with a lovely large rear garden. EPC Rating D. STOURBRIDGE OFFICE 01384 395555

£174,950

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COSELEY**Huntsman Close**

An absolutely outstanding, exceptionally well appointed & meticulously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, & uPVC double glazed detached family home occupying a fine corner plot in favoured 'backwater' within walking distance of so many amenities. The elegant accommodation comprises reception hall, appointed/shifted cloak/shower room, 17'5" through living room with patio doors & an 'American walnut' feature overmantel, spacious dining kitchen with a fine range of units. Three generous bedrooms (principal bedroom with appointed shower room en suite, & a third bedroom with fitted wardrobes/cupboards), appointed bathroom with a white suite. Lengthy driveway with brick garage, and sheltered landscaped garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £173,950**WOLVERHAMPTON****Sherrans Dell (Off Dovedale Rd),**

A tremendously improved & enhanced, freehold, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed detached in short cut de sac within walking distance of so many amenities. Accommodation provides entrance hallway, fitted cloakroom, L-shaped lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'light beech' effect units with chrome detailing & various integrated appliances. Three bedrooms (shower room en suite to principal bedroom), appointed bathroom with white suite, carport, garage, garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £169,950**BRIERLEY HILL****Seagers Lane**

Presenting a rare opportunity, this double glazed (most units uPVC), gas centrally heated, THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED family home is situated in a well regarded location overlooking 'the park' and is convenient for local amenities. The well maintained property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, through Lounge / Dining Room, Kitchen, three good Bedrooms, refitted Shower Room with pale green suite, Garage, Driveway and tiered rear Garden. EPC rating: D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£159,995**COSELEY****Mason Street**

A highly individual, PARTICULARLY SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed detached of character (believed to be one of the oldest houses in the neighbourhood) offering tremendous further potential. Accommodation includes: imposing reception hall (18' deep), fitted cloakroom, spacious 21'6" lounge, 21' dining kitchen with uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY beyond, FOUR BEDROOMS, separate toilet, bathroom. Potential car port space, sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £159,950**COSELEY****The Paddock**

SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated detached envably situated opposite cricket ground within reasonable distance of rail/bus transport routes, etc. Much enhanced accommodation includes large entrance vestibule, reception hall, fitted cloaks/shower room, dining room, transverse 16'9" lounge, upgraded kitchen, three bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom, 23'2" garage, block paved driveway, secluded rear garden with substantial brick store. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £157,950**LOWER GORNAL****Milton Crescent, Straits**

An attractive, significantly modernised, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached in favoured neighbourhood comprising enlarged porch, reception hall, lounge with 'living flame' gas fire, understairs store, kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms (two with an extensive range of wardrobes/cupboards), upgraded/re-fitted bathroom with white 'Heritage' suite, LARGE GARAGE (26'1" x 8'3") with utility room & further large store (former garage) beyond. Delightful, expertly tended rear garden, block paved driveway. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £157,950**SEDGLEY****Northway**

An absolutely outstanding, significantly enlarged/EXTENDED, freehold, uPVC double glazed & gas radiator centrally heated semi detached presented in exemplary order throughout in favoured district. Meticulously maintained accommodation includes enlarged porch, inner hallway, L-shape through living room (lounge section with bow window & dining room section with patio doors), refitted kitchen with 'beech' effect units & many integrated appliances, lobby, fitted cloakroom with white suite, enlarged 12'8" x 7'4" utility/laundry room, three bedrooms (two with first quality professionally installed fitted units), appointed/re-fitted bathroom with white suite, garage, sheltered/landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £160,000, NOW £155,000**SEDGLEY****Richmond Road**

Tremendously modernised & improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed inter-war semi character envably situated within reasonable/level walking distance of Bull Ring & all associated amenities/schools. Accommodation provides imposing reception hall with original oak flooring, separate dining room with bay, sitting room with 'hole in the wall' living flame gas fire, refitted kitchen (integrated appliances), pantry, three bedrooms (two with wardrobes), appointed bathroom with stylish white suite, garage with utility section, separate toilet, neat secluded rear garden, parking for numerous vehicles. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £154,950**BRIERLEY HILL****Madison Avenue**

This most impressive, three storey, uPVC Double Glazed, Gas Centrally Heated, THREE / FOUR BEDROOM End Townhouse is conveniently situated for the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The versatile property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Guest WC, Dining Kitchen, Dining Room / Bedroom Four to Ground Floor, Lounge, Bathroom Bedroom Three to First Floor, BEDROOMS ONE AND TWO (with En-suite to Master) to Second Floor, allocated Parking Space, and Rear Garden. EPC Rating: C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£149,950**DUDLEY****The Broadway**

A SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed traditional semi detached of character with LARGE CONTRACTORS GARAGE in popular/convenient neighbourhood. Impressive accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, pantry, dining room with bay & double doors through to a rear lounge, extended 17'7" overall breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units, inner lobby, fitted cloakroom & further family/playroom (or even 'occasional bedroom'). Three generous bedrooms (two with wardrobes), appointed bathroom with white suite & a large garage (17'10" plus recess x 12'8" max), garden. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950**COSELEY****Mount Pleasant Street**

A particularly SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & double glazed Edwardian semi detached of character that has been lovingly restored/rejuvenated by present vendors over the years. Elegant accommodation includes entrance vestibule, imposing reception hall (fifty ceiling heights), inner hallway, store & fitted cloakroom, lounge with living flame fireplace, dining room, upgraded breakfast kitchen, practical cellar (used as workshop). Three bedrooms, enlarged bathroom. Traditional loft (with potential). Delightful secluded level rear garden with gated PARKING/GARAGE SPACE. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £147,950**LOWER GORNAL****The Straits**

OFFERS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL & occupying a fine corner plot in popular/convenient neighbourhood, a gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed semi detached for improvement. Accommodation provides reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, store, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens & BRICK GARAGE to side. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £144,950**QUARRY BANK****Lawnsdown Road**

This beautifully presented, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED, GAS CENTRALLY HEATED, THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED home is situated in an established residential location, and is well worthy of internal inspection. The IMPRESSIVE PROPERTY briefly comprises: entrance hall, stylish through lounge / dining room, re-fitted kitchen, utility, three good bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, garage, driveway, and a pleasant rear garden. EPC Rating: E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£130,000**SEDGLEY****Lomond Road, Northway**

An exceptionally stylish, tremendously upgraded & improved, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed 'starter home' in quiet 'backwater' convenient for so many amenities. Personal inspection vital to appreciate quality of the accommodation which includes uPVC double glazed entrance porch, 18ft reception hall, utility room, storage cupboard, lounge with box bay, dining room (with patio doors to garden) & refitted kitchen with superb range of 'beech' effect units with integrated oven, hob & extractor. Three generous bedrooms, appointed bathroom with a fine range of 'cherrywood' effect fitted units to contemporary white suite/shower. Secluded well tended rear garden with extensive decking. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £125,000**QUARRY BANK****Caledonia**

Pleasantly situated to form part of this established address and with a distant front view, this REALLY QUITE DECEPTIVE, WELL ARRANGED TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOME should appeal to first time buyers, with a layout having GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING, to briefly comprise: hall, guests cloak room, attractive sitting room, TRULY LOVELY KITCHEN, two good first floor bedrooms and delightful white bathroom. Fore garden, LENGTHY BLOCK PAVED DRIVE and with an enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating: C. STOURBRIDGE OFFICE 01384 395555

£124,950**LOWER GORNAL****Autumn Drive**

This beautifully presented, traditional style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom semi detached home is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, and an internal inspection is highly recommended. The conscientiously maintained property briefly comprises: entrance hall, spacious through lounge, refitted kitchen. Three good size bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Driveway and rear garden with distant views. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £119,950**COSELEY****Corfe Road, Hurst Hill**

A conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached presented in superb order throughout set at head of cul de sac with good distant views. Accommodation includes reception hall, store, dining room with bay, lounge, kitchen (with oven, hob & pantry), three bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes), bathroom with white suite, block paved driveway & brick GARAGE, delightful expertly tended sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £119,950, NOW £109,950**SEDGLEY****Claremont Road**

A gas centrally heated, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED intermediate terrace of character with various original period features (fireplaces, doors, etc.) excellent situated within walking distance of the Bull Ring & open fields. Accommodation includes dining room with bay, lobby, sitting, kitchen, rear lobby, bathroom, two double bedrooms. Delightful sheltered rear garden & substantial concrete panel WORKROOM/STORE (light & power & rear pedestrian access). EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £105,000**DUDLEY****Magdalen Close, London Heights**

A gas radiator centrally heated, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED semi detached at head of short cul de sac with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS and convenient for so many amenities. Spacious accommodation provides entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three generous bedrooms, bathroom, integral garage, front & rear gardens. With potential. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £104,950**COSELEY****Rounds Hill Road**

A comprehensively modernised, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached of character that has been 'transformed' by present vendor in recent years. Situated within reasonable distance of bus/rail transport routes & many other amenities, the stylish accommodation provides reception hall, lounge, dining room (with double French doors out to garden), refitted kitchen with integrated appliances, two/three bedrooms, appointed bathroom with white suite, block paved foregarden (kerb dropped) & good size rear garden. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £103,950**PENSNETT****Commonsode**

This MODERN STYLE, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED, GAS CENTRALLY HEATED, two bedroom terraced home offers well presented accommodation, and may be of particular interest to first time buyers. The property briefly comprises: lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, driveway and rear garden. EPC Rating: D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£102,950**UPPER GORNAL****Rubens Close**

An attractive, gas centrally heated & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED end 'starter home' occupying a fine corner plot with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from the front in well regarded district. Offering potential, the accommodation provides lounge, breakfast kitchen, principal bedroom with wardrobes, second bedroom, bathroom, boarded roof space, block paved foregarden & side DRIVEWAY (8'3" width), 'low maintenance' rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £99,950**GORNAL WOOD****NEW PRICE****New Street**

A modernised, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED & gas centrally intermediate terrace in an established district convenient for all the many amenities/facilities around the village. Accommodation includes lounge, kitchen (with patio doors to garden), landing, transverse bedroom 1, bathroom with shower, sheltered/secluded rear garden. IDEAL ALTERNATIVE TO A FLAT. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

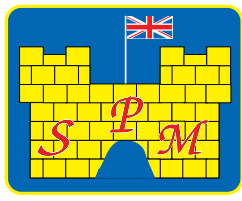
WAS £82,000, NOW £75,000**DUDLEY****Edenbridge View, Milking Bank Area**

50% SHARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE. Envably situated at head of cul de sac section, a gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached in popular district within walking distance of so many amenities. Vendor's 50% share available for sale (other 50% owned by Housing Association who charge a fair market rental) with accommodation providing entrance hallway, lounge, transverse dining kitchen, store, two generous double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, parking to front & good sized sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

PRICE: £62,475 FOR 50% SHARE.**LOWER GORNAL****Five Ways Court, Lake Street**

50% SHARE FOR SALE. A comparatively SPACIOUS, stylish, gas centrally heated, & uPVC double glazed FIRST FLOOR flat with good distant views forming part of gated development. Vendors 50% share available for sale (other 50% owned by Housing Association who charge a fair market rental). "Entry phone" system to shared hall/landing with flat comprising: reception hall, superb 16'8" lounge with well equipped kitchen beyond with a fine range of 'beech' effect units & integrated appliances. TWO BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with shower room en suite & white suite), bathroom. Allocated parking, communal grounds. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

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WOMBOURNE NEW REYNOLDS CLOSE FOR SALE £325,000 Detached Property, Entrance Hall & Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage/Workshop, Gas Central Heating and Partial Double Glazing.	WORDSLEY NEW LAWNWOOD DRIVE £895 pcm Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Shower Room, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Double Open Garage, Front, Rear & Side Garden.	KINGSWINFORD NEW MANOR PARK £575 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens.	COSELEY NEW LILIAN GROVE £575 pcm End Terrace House, Lounge, Kitchen, Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Garden, Unfurnished.
WORDSLEY NEW SEATON PLACE £675 pcm Semi-Detached House, Lounge with Dining Area off, Kitchen, Walk-in Storage Cupboard, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Garage, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden.	PENSNETT NEW KIRKHAM GARDENS £515 pcm Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished.	DUDLEY NEW BOURNE STREET £395 pcm Ground Floor Maisonette, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.	PENSNETT NEW SWAN STREET £575 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking for 2 cars, Unfurnished.
BRIERLEY HILL NEW WILLIAM STREET £550 pcm Terraced House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, - Double Glazing, Unfurnished.	KINGSWINFORD NEW SANDHURST ROAD £625 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage, Unfurnished.	STOURBRIDGE NEW AUDNAM £375 pcm First Floor Flat, Ground Floor Entry, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.	DUDLEY NEW DONNINGTON COURT £695 pcm End Townhouse, Lounge, Kitchen, Study, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, En Suite, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking.
PENSNETT NEW HEYDON ROAD £595 pcm 4 New Semi-Detached Houses, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Garden, Parking for 1/2 cars.	COLLEY GATE WINDMILL HILL £350 pcm First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Unfurnished.	SEDGLEY ROWAN ROAD £575 pcm Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Unfurnished.	PENSNETT HIGH STREET £410 pcm First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished.
KINGSWINFORD HIGH VIEW DRIVE £750 pcm Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage, Front & Rear Gardens.	STOURBRIDGE LICKEY ROAD £675 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Study, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.	BRIERLEY HILL WALLOW ROAD £540 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.	WOODSETTON SHENLEY AVENUE £625 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.
WOODSETTON SEDGLEY ROAD £550 pcm Terraced Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden.	GREAT BRIDGE EAGLE PLACE £370 pcm Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Economy Seven Heating, Private Parking, Security Entrance Door.	GORNAL HARVEST CLOSE £560 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking.	TIPTON TIPPS STONE CLOSE £385 pcm Ground Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedrooms, Unfurnished, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking.

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Affordable, very reliable and a seven-seater

By David Banner

THE Mitsubishi Outlander makes an interesting left field choice if you're looking for a reliable, well-equipped seven-seater that's keenly priced and decently screwed together. There's just the one engine on offer, and it's a decent 150PS 2.2-litre diesel, mated to an all-wheel drive chassis.

It's an inevitability that when a car manufacturer enters into a partnership with ostensible rivals, one will come out on top.

Although predicting which party gets the best out of a particular deal is never straightforward, the tie up which saw Mitsubishi get a diesel engine from Peugeot and Citroën while they got the previous generation Outlander and dressed it up as the C-Crosser and 4007 respectively only had one loser, in Europe at least.

People loved the French cars because they were heavily discounted and offered far better build quality than we were used to from the marques at the time. Mitsubishi was left to pick up the pieces.

All of which is a bit of a shame as the Outlander is a really good 4x4 and now makes a great used buy. Mitsubishi is back once again with the next generation Outlander and is hoping its luck improves. Mitsubishi UK has

decided to keep things simple and offers one diesel engine with a four-wheel drive chassis. Although it's 105kg lighter than its predecessor, this is still quite a big chunk for a 150PS engine to shovel along, even if the engine has been tweaked for a bit more low end boost.

Peak torque arrives between 1,700 and 2,500rpm, so you'll need to work the six-speed gearbox quite diligently to stay on top of things.

If that's too much like hard work, choose the six-speed auto option with its steering wheel paddles for manual override.

The auto does add 1.5 seconds to the manual car's sprint to 100km/h, stretching it out to 11.2 seconds. Both cars register an identical 124mph top speed.

Sophisticated

A good deal of development budget has been spent on improving the Outlander's refinement and more sophisticated engine mounts, thicker glass and improved sound insulation materials have all been fitted.

Electric power steering with passive rear steer also feature although the Outlander is not the sort of vehicle you'll throw around on the long way home.

Outlander's front end was always reminiscent of the Lancer Evo which can only be a good thing.

The Evo's dead and buried now, so Mitsubishi has to move on.

This Mitsubishi's slab sides, long overhangs and lugubrious face don't lend it much in the way of visual athleticism, but much of that will be forgiven when you get inside.

This Japanese brand hasn't always done



The Mitsubishi Outlander can seat up to seven and is well built

interiors very well and although you won't think you're in an Audi Q5, this Outlander offers plenty of soft-touch finishes and a clean, architectural fascia design.

It's a decent size too, with a third row of seats that disappears into the floor, more legroom for second row passengers and plenty of room up front.

There's also loads of cubby storage and up to 1,022 litres of space on the flat floor with the rear seats folded and 591 litres when in five seat mode.

The load floor is now 1.69m long when the

second and third rows are folded, a massive 33.5cm up on its predecessor. The middle row of seats can slide on runners back and forth over a range of 25cm.

Expect entry-level cars to come equipped with air-conditioning, alloy wheels, cruise control, four powered windows, remote locking, seven airbags and stability control, while mid-level cars will feature things like leather and dual-zone climate control. Buyers of the range-topping model will get refinements such as satellite navigation, a parking camera and a high-end audio system, along with

advanced safety systems including lane departure warning, radar cruise control and a collision mitigation system (which applies the brakes automatically if it senses an impending crash).

The model line-up of trim levels runs from GX2 to GX5. Mitsubishi have also announced a plug-in hybrid that's capable of an equivalent of 151mpg, but we'll have to hold fire on that one for some time yet.

Pricing has crept up over that of the old car by around two per cent which means that the entry level variant should pitch in at under £24,000.

Mitsubishi has invoked a number of measures to improve the Outlander's efficiency, not that it was too bad to begin with. Improving the aerodynamics is, in effect, a freebie, and reducing weight also helps cut fuel consumption and emissions quite markedly. Using what is much the same engine, the Outlander's CO2 return has dropped from 164g/km to a much more palatable 146g/km, while combined cycle fuel economy has improved from 44.8mpg to 50.4mpg compared to the second generation current car. While that's still some way off what Mazda is achieving with its ground breaking CX-5, it's certainly better than many rivals. Do bear in mind that if you opt for the automatic gearbox, your economy won't be quite so impressive, but the 46.3mpg figure is still better than the previous shape manual model, so there's a clear indicator of progress.

If you're hankering after something spacious, relatively affordable, super-reliable and which can seat seven, the Mitsubishi Outlander muscles its way into contention.

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Motoring



Take a close look at what you're being charged for finance in car showrooms. Go for 0 per cent deals

Stop motor dealers getting away with extortionate interest rates

HOW much did you pay for your car? No, how much did you really pay, after interest on any finance agreements?

The reality these days is that some car companies are making more profit from providing loans to car buyers than they are from the cars themselves, and customers are the ones paying the price.

You'll probably know that the Bank of England base rate of interest is at 0.5 per cent, and has been for a long time now. That means other banks can borrow money at that interest rate – practically nothing. But then when it comes to signing on the dotted line in the showroom, have a look at what

you're being charged for finance. You'll be lucky if it's much below 10 per cent, with some wheeler-dealers trying to charge much more than that.

The bottom line of this mathematical mumbo-jumbo is that you can add thousands of pounds on to the price you pay for your car.

A £20,000 family wagon might become a £24,000 weight around your neck. And remember, that extra wedge is pure, unearned profit going straight to the lender.

As if that's not enough, while your car experiences its steepest depreciation in its first year on the road, your loan repayments are linear. The gap between what the car is worth and what you owe just keeps getting wider

for months on end, and in many cases you're only likely to break even after about two and a half years.

It's completely outrageous what car dealers are getting away with when it comes to finance.

Charging such extortionate interest rates should be outlawed; perhaps reduced to a maximum of triple the Bank of England base rate.

Better yet, we could just avoid buying cars without the incentive of 0 per cent interest finance. That seems like a fair deal to me.

After all, manufacturers need us to buy their cars, so it's time we exercised a bit of people power and told them the daylight robbery of finance interest has to stop.

No surprises in sight for used car market at end of this year

REDUCED VALUES and increased supply have set the scene for a used car market "soft landing" toward the end of the year, according to CAP Automotive.

The market seems to be repeating the pattern seen last year, when the market slowed more gently than in the past, with no sign of any shocks on the horizon, CAP experts believe.

Black Book Live, the award-winning real-time car valuation trending tool published by CAP Automotive, identifies cars over four-and-a-half years old as one of the main areas of increased supply. This is fuelling complaints among dealers that high mileages and poor condition are an increasing problem in the search for quality retail stock.

But even values of older, lower quality cars are not sliding steeply, thanks to on-going retail demand, which leaves dealers with little choice other than to keep stocking forecourts.

Closing

Derren Martin, Senior Editor of Black Book Live – which monitors market price movements daily – said: "The window of consumer demand is slowly closing as we move through the final quarter, so dealers who are in the market for stock are exercising more caution around bidding prices at auction."

"We have therefore seen conversion rates at auction slip from over 80 per cent at this point in September to around the 65 per cent mark a month later."

"This reflects the increasing volumes of cars and, in particular, cars that would not be everyone's first choice to purchase for stock. Part of this increase comes from September retail part-exchanges that were not attractive enough to franchise dealers to put on their own forecourts. These are now washing through the market, along with ex-rental vehicles and ex-demonstrators."

"Because retail demand remains good for the time of year, dealers are therefore reluctantly buying these cars and absorbing the cost of reconditioning them. Retailers still need to fill their forecourts, so buying those older cars has become a reluctant necessity."

Derren Martin is also quick to reassure the market that the temporary increase in volume shows no sign of becoming a serious problem of oversupply that could depress values significantly.

He said: "There are over two million fewer used cars in the marketplace than before the recession, so there is no imminent threat of a return to the days of severe oversupply."

"We are also seeing early signs of dealers across all segments building stock levels for January, as they tend to turn



Derren Martin, senior editor of Black Book Live a blind eye to used vehicle stock turn at this time of year. Demand is traditionally high amongst consumers post-Christmas and some switched on sellers will be starting their January sale from Boxing Day.

"The days of clearing the decks for the year-end accounts are certainly over for many."

"With a soft landing predicted for quarter quarter, this also makes any dramatic increases in values less likely as we enter the New Year."

"In short, the market remains fairly robust and we foresee no unpleasant shocks in the short to medium term."

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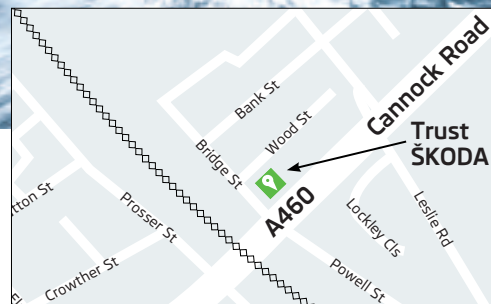


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Motoring

Our motorway service stations fail customers

By David Banner

WHEN did you last have a good experience at a motorway service station?

In my case, I'm going to say never. We're constantly being told by clever people that, with the demise of heavy industry, Britain is now a service economy. I beg to differ, and I'm guessing few of these learned individuals have set foot in your average motorway refuge. If they had, they'd be rewriting their reports faster than it takes to get a decent cup of coffee at said roadside establishment (which means they'd have all the time in the world, thanks to the glacial speed of the customer service).

Everything about modern motorway services stinks: from the random locations – often infrequent, sometimes too close together, to the overpriced food and drink and the surly staff and grubby surroundings.

Certainly, there's little to like save the ability to stop safely and stretch your legs.

Soggy

Much has already been said about these obvious issues, so why has the situation been allowed to continue for so long? If we're so fed up with the soggy sandwiches and gravel masquerading as coffee we should vote with our feet and go elsewhere.

Oh, wait, you can't. I understand that building such sites is a costly exercise, something often used as justification for the laugh-out-loud food prices. But that still doesn't excuse operators viewing travellers as little more than cash cows. After all, not everyone wants a full-on retail experience at the roadside. What's



Many motorway services are not open 24-7 and should be

wrong with a simple, safe parking area, clean public conveniences and somewhere to sit?

The French and Germans have nailed this with their low-key rest areas.

True, the locations often lack visual appeal, but they get the basics right – and, crucially, there's not a retail outlet in sight. Don't worry, though, if you do want currywurst and chips for sensible money, those options do exist and are a darn sight better run than the British equivalent.

And what if you want to eat and it's the middle of the night? Can you find somewhere open? Nope. Is it really too much to ask for a facility to be open 24 hours? Supermarkets manage it, yet an outlet located next to a motorway, open 24-7, cannot. We're not talking

stone-cold sandwiches from a vending machine either, but proper food served by a human being. A smile would be a bonus.

Such grievances shouldn't come as a surprise to seasoned motorway user.

But with no obvious competition and the guarantee of a captive audience, there's clearly no need for current operators to up their game. It's also interesting that existing retail behemoths have chosen to stay away. Maybe it's time for a supermarket chain to switch attention from the high street to the highway?

Ensuring motorways are well-maintained and safeguarding driver safety should be a top priority for all parties. Road signs aren't optional, and neither should safe and pleasant places to stop be.

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36,500 miles, 1900 diesel, auto, 6
months tax and MoT, full tank of
fuel, £4,000 ono. 01902 822401.

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF TDI Plus, 06
plate, MoT'd, taxed, fsh, aircon,
good condition, £3,895 ono. 01902
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VOLVO S40 DRIVE 60 plate, diesel,
from brand new, full dealer history,
full MoT, grey with black leather,
105k miles, £5,250. 07901 762131.

VW POLO 1.2 petrol, 2003, black,
3dr, MoT Jun 14, tax Jan 14, fsh,
£1,995. 07838 897643

FORD FOCUS ST
07 reg., performance blue,
taxed end January, MoT end
February, two previous owners,
matching set of sport contact
3s, 59,000 miles, no modifica-
tions.
£6,795.
07791 537029.

HONDA CIVIC SEC DTI 1.7
Diesel, 2004, 88,000 miles, 12
months MoT, 6 months tax,
4 nearly new tyres, recent engine
flush and service, new cambelt,
very good condition, excellent
runner.
£3,100 ono.
Telephone 07811 878705.

JAGUAR S TYPE
Saloon, 3 litre, 2005, 57,500
miles, silver, electric windows,
air bag, air con, fsh, alarm, long
MoT, metallic paint, central
locking, pas, tax, alloys, CD,
petrol.
£3,750.
07952 32

Classified Ads

PEUGEOT 206 auto, 1.4, 2003, silver, low mileage, very good condition. MoT Jun 14, tax Apr 14, £1,200 ono. 01384 569520.

PEUGEOT 206 GLX 1.9HDI, 5dr, 2003, green, 1 former keeper, 8 months MoT, tax, excellent condition. £1,095. 07963 464780.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 expression, 51 plate, 12 months MoT, taxed, 78,000 miles, excellent condition, £950 ono. 07866 161574.

RENAULT CLIO Privilege, 5dr, 01.51k, tax, MoT, full electrics, CD player, Good condition, very reliable. £950 ono. 01902 491707.

ROVER 214 95 reg, alloys, leather, sun roof, 5-dr, MoT Sep 2014, no rust, low insurance / tax. £950 ono. 07768 462821. 01902 790879.

ROVER 45 Impression, 1.4, 5dr, 52 reg in met blue, only 52k, one former keeper, 8 months MoT, tax, excellent Swifts. 07522 041997.

SUZUKI SWIFT GLS, 2002, 89k miles, MoT, tax, £695 ono. 07526 928218 or 01902 493325.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4, silver, 2002, 63,000 miles, MoT till June 2014, 3 months tax, FSH, £950 ono. 01902 745640.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 51 reg., blue, petrol, 2001, 5-dr hatchback, very good condition. £650 ono. 07915 380178.

VAUXHALL CORSA, 2002, metallic blue, long MoT, tax, CD, petrol, 1 owner, 5 door, £785. 01384 569520.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2LS, 52 reg, new shape, 84,000 miles, silver, alloys, a/c, MoT Nov 2014, tax. £1,014. 53k ono. 07460 374249.

VW POLO 1.4 Twist TDI, full MoT, 05 reg, 6 months tax, 5dr hatchback, 4th player, gas, fsh, C/L, E/W, E/M, ABS, £2,195. 01922 493716.

classic cars

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FORD IVECO VAN, 2001, 2.8 Turbo, 10 months MoT, 4 months tax, Very good condition, New Battery, £1,595ono. 07976 373055.

RENAULT CLIO VAN, 1.5 diesel, silver, 2009, 09 reg., 82,000 miles, fsh, MoT'd, excellent condition, £2,150. 07407 723795.

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form is available on the
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"Forms" and then form 6.37).
Alternatively, you can contact my
office at LTADT, PO Box 490,
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01473 383535 to supply a form.
Mr S Fearn, Official Receiver and
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10
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gentleman, to share all our
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somewhere and hope you find
the time to drop me a line.
Here's praying.
Photo would be appreciated
(will return)
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Heathens gathering to top off big season

DUDLEY Heathens will bring the curtain down on a stunning season with their awards night in Brierley Hill on Friday.

Club chiefs are keen to stress the evening is a complete sellout in the Earls Suite at the Copthorne Hotel with more than 400 people expected.

The National League champions, who also won the Knockout Cup, Fours, Pairs and Shield, will take to the stage to be presented with medals by world champion Tai Woffinden on what is sure to be an emotional night.

Chairman Nigel Pearson said: "This is going to be a very special evening and we are very pleased to be taking the event to the Copthorne Hotel, adjacent to the Merry Hill Centre.

"I feel sorry for those disappointed people who have missed out on a ticket, we did our best to update fans on ticket sales regularly."

The new brochure 'Heathens 2013... the History Makers' will be launched on the night for £5. Fans are urged to get there early if possible for a prompt 8pm start.

The leaders work hard to gain win

DK Colts 22 Walsall Colts 19
LEAGUE leaders DK found themselves in a tense and exciting game where their Walsall opponents put in a magnificent performance.

The visitors made a hesitant start and conceded an early try.

They came back strongly and a try from Connor Pitt, back from injury, and a conversion from Jordan Lay put the score at 12-7 at half time.

Early in the second half DK extended their lead to 17-7 but Walsall continued to push forward with flanker Ryan Tamilio was prominent at the breakdown and Michael Lockett secured good lineout possession.

The visitors scored two well worked tries. No.8 Connor Fletcher found the line following a ruck and Tamilio scored following a catch and drive. A conversion by Jordan Lay put Walsall in the lead 17-19.

DK pressed hard for the final 20 minutes and grabbed the winning try.

Victory rewards travelling supporters

Bournville 3 Old Hales 20
THE team and enthusiastic supporters travelled to Bournville in positive mood.

Constant driving pressure from both forwards and backs saw the home side defending for most of the first 40 minutes. Pressure told with a penalty to Chris Hooper.

Hales deserved more with continual dominance but Bournville managed to claw back a penalty to draw level 3-3 at half time.

The second half was much the same with the change of outlook obvious from the visitors. Some great drives from Dempsey, Taylor,

Evans and Fitzgerald continually breached the home defence.

Scrum half Nathan Jones was instrumental and provided constant ball to the Hales backs. One feed to wing Luke Smith saw him kick and chase to score in the corner, converted by Hooper.

Bournville were penalised and Hooper converted. On 70 minutes prop Coles punched Mark Evans several times while pinned in a ruck and was sent off.

Pete Fitzgerald again at the fore drive to the line for a brilliant try converted by Hooper which was the final score.

Rugby

Old Hales 2nds 53 Worcester Warriors 12

Old Hales returned to winning ways with a strong performance by the forwards and superior back play orchestrated by Chris Harris.

Mike Topping opened the scoring after Hales pack drove Worcester over their own line, with Tom Harris converting to make it 7-0. Hales forwards continued to dominate and following a forward drive Sam Jones touched down to score a fine try.

Unfortunately they lost inspira-

tional leader Neil Western in this move, John Harris taking over as skipper.

Ben Perks made a strong run through the centre and Hales were awarded a penalty, Tom Harris making it 15-0. Before half time Worcester were able to score following a series of penalties on the Hales line 15-7 half time.

The second half started at a fantastic pace with Jake Harley Yeadon catching the kick-off and driving through the Worcester players before sending the ball down the hales back line for Simon Sable to score. Sam Jones took a

ball against the head in the next scrum and the ball was taken upfield by Hales backs before Harley Yeadon crashed over to score, converted by Tom Harris.

Hales were able to change both props and still dominate the scrums with strong play from Rob Butler and debutant Mike Whiting, who was next to score, Tom Harris converting again.

Worcester got a late try when Hales went to sleep at the end of the game, but were re-awakened by further tries from Sable on the wing and substitute centre Jack Lineham.

Swimmers strive but can't get 2nd spot

National League Round 2 Worcester

Boldmere A 251, Abingdon Vale 181, Long Eaton 167, Worcester 167, Halesowen 158, Leicester Sharks 119.

SENIOR swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club travelled to Worcester at the weekend for the second round of the West Midlands National League.

The premier league lived up to its name with league leaders Boldmere dominate.

The chase for second spot with a coveted place in the league final was close with Halesowen and four other contenders involved in a tight battle all evening.

At the halfway mark eight points separated the four chasing teams but the gap grew steadily with Halesowen slipping behind.

Despite some battling performances and a thrilling final men's relay with Halesowen almost tipping out some of the region's finest swimmers, the teams had to settle for fifth spot.

Individual wins were hard to come but Chloe Finch in the butterfly and freestyle and Richard Spoor in the individual medley and breaststroke were double winners.

The open men's relay team were unbeatable in the medley, including Josh Bradley, Jacob Darby and Michael Edmonds, who were joined by Zach Collins and Mark Laing in the final freestyle relay to be touched out by just 0.3 seconds.

Convincing Connor into semi-finals

CONNOR JONES progressed to the semi-finals of the National Ambition Boxing Championships with a convincing victory.

The former schoolboys and junior ABA national amateur champion, from Lions ABC, Dudley, was a majority points winner in the quarter-finals at Mansfield Civic Centre.

Jones was up against an Irish adversary in Callum McConnell, from Barton ABC. The two went toe-to-toe at 60kg in Class B, for boxers born in 1996.

He nearly forced the stoppage in the second of three, two minute rounds, the jab setting up a right uppercut that rocked McConnell onto his toes.

Four judges to one ruled in Jones' favour on points.

Winning machine rolls on for the Yeltz Ladies

Gillway Ladies 0 Halesowen Ladies 8
The Yeltz winning machine travelled to Tamworth in the open cup to face new side Gillway ladies at the weekend.

Halesowen are the leading goal scorers in the County League were expecting to dominate the home side.

The visitors didn't take long to realise their expectations as girl of the game Tracey Haycock put through in form striker Haley Chatwin to score with a low drive on eight minutes.

Halesowen were dominating the game from the start and passed the ball well through the squad.

Katie Moore made it two with an in-swinging corner that curved into the goal with the goalkeeper unable to do anything other than stand and watch the events unfold.

Chatwin then made it three on 20 minutes with fantastic work by Sophie Richards and within a minute Sian Whithall increased the lead with a half-volley again from excellent work by Richards.

Goal of the game came from super kid Moore who with an individual effort took on the defence and with a looping shot got it over the keeper and into the back of the net.

Whithall got her brace again with good support from hard-working Richards.

Leading goal scorer Rachel Letford added to her tally after a cool finish with a one-on-one with the keeper.

Half time came for a relief for the home side but the

Football

damage was already done.

In the second half the home side consolidated their defensive players and were aiming for damage limitation and made it much harder for the Halesowen squad.

The Yeltz defence became bystanders so they were brought forward which worked well as defender Shell Thomas scored the final goal.

She got the ball outside the penalty area and with another looping shot finished the rout off. Halesowen hit the bar on several occasions but the fantastic effort in the first half put the game out of sight for the home side.

Halesowen Manager Scott McKee said the first half was fantastic and we played the ball around the pitch with great authority, the quality of the Halesowen side was far better than the home side and from the off there was only going to be one winner. This week Halesowen face Redditch away in the county cup

Glassboys fired into the next round of FA Cup

Stourbridge 4 Biggleswade 1

A BUMPER crowd of 1,605 saw Stourbridge reach the second Round proper of the FA Cup for the second time in three seasons as they overcame a nervous opening spell.

The Glassboys beat fellow Calor League Premier Division side Biggleswade Town 4-1 at the War Memorial Athletic Ground.

The Waders pressed early on and in the ninth minute Craig Daniel let fly with a driven shot which Stourbridge custodian Dean Coleman had to tip over the crossbar.

Against the run of play, Stourbridge stunned the Bedfordshire visitors by taking the lead in the match on the 12th minute.

Drew Canavan delivered a dangerous right-wing cross and Ryan Rowe got in front of Ian Brown to bundle home a header.

However, Biggleswade got themselves back on level terms within two minutes.

A free-kick from the boot of Lee Allinson was met by Evan Gray 12 yards out and he looped a header over Coleman and into the top of the net.

Stourbridge restored their lead though in the 17th minute. Luke Benbow



A happy Stourbridge dressing room after their first round success

winning back possession and Canavan then threaded a pass through for Rowe to ram home past Brown for the finish. With the home side now on top the lively Benbow fizzed a shot over on 33 minutes and a low ball in from the left by Benbow later just evaded Rowe in the middle.

Evan Gray squandered a chance for the visitors early

in the second period. Then Stourbridge returned to the attack and after Benbow had been denied by a save from Brown, the resulting flag-kick from Geddes saw Richards steal in to guide home a near post header.

Benbow fired over the top and Geddes had an angled shot saved by Brown before Coleman produced a crucial close range save to thwart

Max York seven minutes before the end of the match. Instead in the 87th minute Benbow used his pace to fasten on to a header by Rowe to get away from Steve Gentle before tucking away a low shot for the fourth Glassboy goal to book the squad place in the next round. Stourbridge now face Stevenage in the next round.

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Buzzing Bs gain another victory

**Dudley Sports 3
Bustleholme 4**

HAVING beaten Shifnal Town 3-1 on Wednesday night, Bustleholme continued their good run with an impressive away win at Dudley Sports.

The visitors almost went ahead straight from the kick-off as Martin Lewis had a shot deflected just wide.

Conner Scott and Chris Hearsey also went close for the Bs but Dudley keeper Dominic Richards saved well on both occasions.

It was the home side who eventually broke the deadlock when Craig Tibbets finished well past Ryan Hall.

Sports doubled their lead when Spencer Lloyd upended Tibbets, who picked himself up to convert the penalty. Lloyd made amends when a quickly taken corner found him 25 yards out and he lashed the ball home.

Just before the break a great run and cross from Steffan Chilton found Lewis, who finished from close range.

At the break a poor clearance by Bustleholme fell to Ben Davis, who finished at the second attempt to put Sports 3-2 up.

Ten minutes into the second half Danny Hall levelled from a Lewis through ball and five minutes from time Lewis found Hearsey who gave Richards no chance and won the game.

Myhill pulls from Wales

ALBION keeper Boaz Myhill has withdrawn from the Wales squad as he revealed he battled through injuries to line up for the Baggies at Chelsea.

The former Hull man will miss the friendly against Finland in Cardiff on Friday in favour of rest and treatment on Achilles and thumb injuries.

The 31-year-old, who had hinted he was considering his international future after being dropped in favour of Wolves' Wayne Hennessey, is struggling with an Achilles problem and damaged ligaments in his thumb that prevented him from training until Friday last week.

He said: "We want the players to go away and have a successful time on international duty. But personally I am going to need treatment on a couple of injuries I've picked up in recent weeks."

Uninspired Tipton lose their home record

Tipton 1 Walsall Wood 2

TIPTON'S undefeated league home record went up in flames as an uninspired and undynamic performance against Walsall Wood saw the visitors grab a late winner to settle a close tie.

Connor Gater's freekick to square the game just after half time was the only shred of consolation for Tipton, whose one-dimensional kick-and-rush approach to the game was easily handled by Walsall Wood.

The visitors took the lead early when Tipton skipper Chris Waterhouses' slip under little or no pressure by the corner flag saw Wood regain possession and excellent

Football

work by Harry Harrison set up the inevitable goal for Lewis Taylor-Boyce.

Tipton almost helped their visitors to double their lead just four minutes later when Graham Ashton's defensive header hit the crossbar and needed a good save by Pemberton to stop the rebound being turned home.

As the first half wore on, Tipton found something approaching fluidity and on 20 minutes Danny Crudgington and Ashton linked up well with Marvin Nisbett to set up

Ben Hadley's shot was deflected wide. Another defensive mix-up on 22 minutes saw Ahmet Bilgimer given a shooting opportunity but Waterhouse redeemed himself and Pemberton again played his part in keeping the score down.

Mensah Kinch was in the action on 25 minutes, first setting up Nisbett to flash a shot across goal and then less than a minute later sent a great cross to Joe Rogers but the full-back was just unable to stretch to direct the ball on target.

The second half saw Gater's screaming free-kick from 25 yards equalise after Nisbett had been felled by Lee Stretton. But

the home side defaulted back into long-ball approach which did keep Walsall under pressure, without really creating much in the way of chances.

Crudgington skied an effort from the edge of the area on 68 minutes and a header from Ashton with five minutes to go was cleared off the line before Kinch had a chance to give Tipton the lead with three minutes to go but was unable to find the right opportunity to pull the trigger, having beaten two players.

There was a certain crushing inevitability when a fine pass by Samson Alalade released Bilgimer whose excellent finish from the edge of the box gave Wood a deserved win.

Defeat on the road for Yeltz

Newcastle 2 Halesowen 1

HALESOWEN began their brief spell without top scorer Ben Haseley and it showed as they slumped to a 2-1 defeat to mid-table side Newcastle Town, as they claimed their fourth win in four games.

Halesowen had a goal disallowed after Iyzeden Christie kept fighting down the right wing and finally hit the ball across the box, but Tom Tonks pushed Aaron Carter, who fell and flicked the ball over his own keeper.

The dull first half ended with both sides having a fair amount of chances but both struggling to get chances on target.

The second half started with Newcastle taking the lead as a corner kick from Ricky Bridge flew into the box and it met with the head of Leon Ashman.

Then he gifted Halesowen an equaliser when he misjudged his distance from goal as he headed the ball with little power towards his keeper and Christie was able to hit the ball past Dave Parton.

Newcastle did not need long to get back into the lead as Tim Sanders slotted a through ball to Tom Urwin, who outpaced Curtis Tilt and poked the ball home.

Kickboxer grabs four world titles

A YOUNG Dudley martial artist has returned from the continent with four world kickboxing titles.

Olympic hopeful Reuben Charlesworth from Lower Gornal gained the titles in Tuscany Italy where more than 10,000 competitors from 124 countries and six World Associations gathered.

Reuben won two individual and two team titles.

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DK SEVERELY STUNG BY RAMPANT BEES

Birmingham Solihull 70 DK 12

ANOTHER tough day at the office for DK as yet again they were put under the cosh by a buoyant Bees outfit who were quick off the mark before DK had a chance to settle into the game.

Rugby

The forwards once again matched their bigger opponents, even though the line out stuttered early on, but unforced errors and lack of organisation in the defence cost them dearly. Bees scrum half Rod Petty opened the scoring after only four minutes which was the first of six tries in the first half.

Others were scored by David Evans, Rod Petty, Rob Connolly, Steve Leach, plus a penalty try.

Adam Canning converted three of them and added a penalty for good measure.

Nipping

The 10 minutes either side of the interval was DK's only purple patch of the game with Jordan Brookes nipping in for a well-worked try with Kieron Pinches adding the extras.

DK started the second half well, and exerted some concerted pressure on the home line and were rewarded when replacement front row Steve Blackburn crashed over for a try following some good play from the forwards.

However, that was to be the last glimmer of hope for the visitors as Bees grabbed the initiative again and

added a further five tries by Rob Connolly, Ashley Elvers (2), Chris Fensome, and Joe Mogaji scoring with the last play of the game, three of which were converted by Ian Briggs.

The only bright spot in an otherwise cold and gloomy Portway was the news that club captain Ed Parry became a dad for the first time. Congratulations to Ed and Laura on the birth of baby Max.

This Saturday DK entertain Caldys at home, in a game that they will clearly be looking to win.

However, it will be big ask, and the team need all the support they can get to help them gain that elusive first game of the season.

Dudley Kingswinford: 15 Josh Barnbrook, 14 Donovan Smile, 13 Jordan Brookes, 12 Ashley Oyekean, 11 Liam Marshall, 10 Kieran Pinches, 9 Connah Jones, 1 Al Francis, 2 Luke Greenwood, 3 Tom May, 4 Michael Cowern, 5 Nick Murphy, 6 Danny Hawkins, 7 Sam Pedley, 8 Pete Knight. Replacements 16 Dan Shakespeare, 17 Steve Blackburn, 18 Matt Squires, 19 Tom Scriven, 20 Tony Gordon.



Jordan Bookes goes over for one of the few scores for DK as they were hammered by the Bees

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